





Mark Beauchamp Peacock



19033/C

T R A V E L S

IN

SWITZERLAND,

AND IN THE

COUNTRY OF THE GRISONS:

IN A SERIES OF LETTERS

TO

WILLIAM MELMOTH, Esq.

FROM

WILLIAM COXE, M.A. F.R.S. F.A.S.

RECTOR OF BEMERTON; AND

DOMESTIC CHAPLAIN TO THE LORD BISHOP OF SALISBURY.

THE THIRD EDITION, IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

L O N D O N:

PRINTED FOR T. CADELL, IN THE STRAND.

1794.

Là habite un Peuple simple, bienfaissant, brave, ennemi du faste, ami du travail, ne cherchant point d'esclaves, et ne voulant point de maîtres.

DE MEHEGAN,
Tableau de l'Histoire Moderne.



TO THE
C O U N T E S S

OF

PEMBROKE AND MONTGOMERY,
BARONESS HERBERT, &c. &c.

MADAM,

THE following Letters relating to Switzerland naturally claim your Ladyship's protection; for they were originally written while I had the honour of accompanying Lord Herbert upon his travels. I feel myself highly flattered, therefore, in having the permission of inscribing them to your Lady-

a 2 ship,

ship, and of thus publickly acknowledging
that I am, with great respect, and gratitude
for obligations received from the Earl of
Pembroke and your Ladyship,

M A D A M,

Your Ladyship's

most obedient and

obliged humble servant,

W^M C O X E.

PREFACE.

P R E F A C E.

TEN years have elapsed since I gave to the Public a volume of Letters under the title of, "*Sketches on the Natural, Civil, and Political State of Switzerland.*" The favourable reception of that work induced me, in 1779, to make a journey through the country of the Grisons, a part of Switzerland hitherto little known. Having, in 1785 and 1787, opportunities of revisiting the same spots which I had before described, I was anxious to revise and augment my former publication. With this view I compared my descriptions at the very places, which I attempted to delineate; attentively perused the criticisms of succeeding travellers; and in many of the principal towns, I entreated several persons, of political or literary eminence, to correct any errors, or to suggest any improvement, with respect to those particular parts, with which, from situation, they were most conversant.

THE materials collected from these and other sources, increased by my own observations and researches, encourage me to hope, that the present improved

proved account of so interesting a country as Switzerland, will not be unacceptable to the Public, and will be considered as a new work.

It may be proper to apprise the purchasers of the former editions, that it was my intention to have separately printed the corrections and additions, for their convenience; but it is presumed, that a comparison of the present publication with the former editions, will sufficiently prove, that the design was impracticable.

BEMERTON, *Feb.* 20, 1789.

ADVER-

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

I N regard to the former publication on Switzerland, the Author acknowledges his obligations to Colonel Floyd, for the use of the accurate journal which he kept during their joint tour, and to the judicious animadversions of the elegant writer to whom these Letters are addressed. For this improved work he holds himself no less indebted for various communications from Thomas Pennant, Esq. and David Pennant, Esq.; and to the kind assistance of Dr. Pulteney, the Rev. Thomas Martyn, Professor of Botany in the University of Cambridge, and the Rev. Richard Relhan.

As it was inconsistent with the nature of letters, to interrupt the reader by perpetual references to authorities, I have subjoined, in an appendix to the second volume, a catalogue of the principal works which I have occasionally consulted in the course of this publication.

ADVERTISEMENT.

IN presenting this new Edition to the Public, the Author cannot omit this opportunity of expressing his approbation of the elegance and accuracy of the Views given by Mr. SMITH.

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LETTERS,

MAP OF SWITZERLAND,

Marked with
the ROUTES of FOUR TOURS
made in the Years 1776, 1779, 1785 and 1786.

BY
The Rev.^d WILL^m COXE, AMERS-FAS.

LONDON.

Published as the Act directs
by T. CADELL, Strand.

Jan. 26. 1789.

Longitude East from the Meridian of Greenwich

Longitude East from the Meridian of Geneva

OBSERVATIONS.

The Thirteen Cantons of Switzerland

The Eight ancient Cantons

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| • Zurich | • Schwitz | • Fribourg |
| • Berne | • Unterwalden | • Soleure |
| • Lucerne | • Zug | • Schaffhausen |
| • Uri | • Glarus | • Appenzel |

Associates and Confederates to all the Cantons.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| • Abbot of St. Gallen | • GRISSON'S VIZ. | • Valais |
| • Town of St. Gallen | • Grey League | • Geneva |
| • Biemme | • League of Gods House | • Neuchâtel & Valengin |
| • Mulhausen | • Ten Jurisdictions | • Bishop of Basle |

Independent States Protected by the Cantons or their Allies

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| • Gersau | • Lucerne | • Rapperswil |
| • Engelberg | • Unterwalden | • Haldenstein |

Subjects to the Cantons or their Allies

- | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|
| • Thurgau, to the Eight ancient Cantons | • Morat | • Bernese |
| • Renththal | • Echallens & Orbe | • Fribourg |
| • Canton of Appenzel | • Schwytzenburg | • Schwytzenburg |

Free Bailliages Viz.

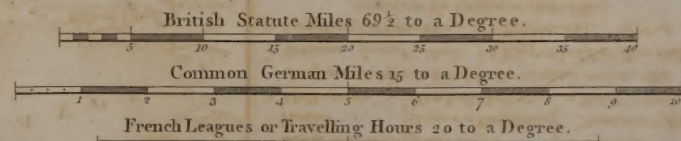
- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| • Upper Eight ancient Cantons | • Val Bregaglia | • Val Bregaglia |
| • Lower Zurich, Bern & Glarus | • Locarno | • Locarno |
| • Sax Zurich | • Lugano | • Lugano |

• Uznach

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| • Gaster & Gams | • Val d'Aoste | • Val d'Aoste |
| • Werdenberg | • Chiavenna | • Chiavenna |
| • Biemme | • Bormio | • Bormio |

• Töckenburgh

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|---------|
| • Protestants | • Catholics | • Mixed |
|---------------|-------------|---------|



LETTERS, &c.

LETTER I.

ROUTE THROUGH THE BLACK FOREST—SOURCE OF THE
DANUBE.

Donefchingen, July 21, 1776.

DEAR SIR,

I AM now at Donefchingen, in my way towards Switzerland; a country long celebrated for the peculiarities of its different governments, and for the singular beauties conferred upon it by nature. If it will not be trespassing upon your patience, I propose to trouble you with some account of my tour. For I am persuaded, that I shall travel with much greater profit to myself; as the reflection that my observations are to be communicated to you, will render me more attentive and accurate in forming them.

WE quitted Strasburgh yesterday, and crossed the Rhine to Kehl, formerly an important fortress belonging to Strasburgh when an imperial city. It was also strongly fortified by the French, who took possession of it in 1648: being ceded to

the Empire at the peace of Ryſwic, the Emperor conſigned it to the houſe of Baden, reſerving, however, to himſelf the right of a garrifon. Since that period, it has been twice attacked by the French : and as during the laſt ſiege, in 1733, the works were conſiderably damaged, the imperial garrifon has been withdrawn. At preſent, there are only the ruins of the ancient fortifications ; and by way of garrifon, a few invalids belonging to the Margrave of Baden. From thence we proceeded to Offenburgh, a ſmall imperial town ; and ſoon after, entered the beautiful valley of Kinſing : we paſſed through Gengenbach, another ſmall imperial town, finely ſituated ; and continued our journey by the ſide of the ſmall river Kinſing ; riſing gradually for ſeveral leagues together, until we found ourſelves in the miſt of the Black Foreſt. As we aſcended, the country became more wild and romantic, and the river more rapid ; on each hand mountains, whoſe acclivities were finely cultivated, and whoſe tops were richly covered with a continual foreſt. Several ſmall ſtreams of the cleareſt water rolled down the ſides of the mountains, in numberleſs caſcades ; and uniting, fell into the Kinſing. The views were ſo exceedingly diverſified ; the villages ſo delightfully ſituated ; and the cottages ſo extremely pictureſque, that we almoſt ſeemed to have anticipated the romantic beauties of Switzerland.

DONESCHINGEN is the principal reſidence of the prince of Furſtenberg : in the court-yard of his palace, the Danube takes its riſe. I am this moment returned from viſiting the ſpot ; the deſcription of which may be comprized in a few words. Some ſmall ſprings bubbling from the ground, form
a baſon

a basin of clear water, of about thirty feet square: from this basin issues the Danube, which is here only a little brook. And though the two small rivers of Bribach and Brege, uniting below the town, are far more considerable than this stream, which flows into them soon after their junction; yet the latter alone has the honour of being called the Source of the Danube. After we had gone through the ceremony of striding across the stream, in order to say, that we had *stepped* over the Danube, we soon satisfied our curiosity; the object itself being in no respect extraordinary, but deriving its principal consideration from being the source of so noble a river. Indeed, it was this circumstance alone that induced us to enter Switzerland by the way of Suabia.

I am, DEAR SIR,

very affectionately Yours,

WILLIAM COXE.

L E T T E R 2.

ARRIVAL IN SWITZERLAND—SCHAFFHAUSEN—
FALL OF THE RHINE.

Schaffhausen, July 22.

I FEEL great delight in breathing the air of liberty; every person here has apparently the mien of content and satisfaction. The cleanliness of the houses, and of the people, is peculiarly striking; and I can trace in all their manners, behaviour, and dress, some strong outlines, which distinguish this happy people from the neighbouring nations. Perhaps it may be prejudice and unreasonable partiality; but I am the more pleased, because their first appearance reminds me of my own countrymen, and I could almost think, for a moment, that I am in England*.

SCHAFFHAUSEN, a tolerably well-built town, situated upon the northern shore of the Rhine, is the capital of the canton, and owes its origin to the interruption of the navigation of that river by the cataract at Lauffen: huts being at first constructed for the convenience of unloading the merchandize from the boats, it by degrees increased to a large town, Schaffhausen was formerly an imperial city, and governed by

* On again entering Schaffhausen, the 18th of July, 1786, I was not so much struck with its neatness as in 1776. The reason is obvious. In my former expedition I emerged from the wilds of Suabia, on the latter occasion I had just quitted the cultivated parts of Bavaria.

an aristocracy: it was mortgaged in 1330, by the Emperor Louis of Bavaria, to the Dukes of Austria, and was released from its dependency by the Emperor Sigismund, when Frederick Duke of Austria was put under the ban of the empire. In 1501, it was admitted a member of the Helvetic confederacy; and is the twelfth canton in rank. Of all the cantons, it is the least in size, being only five leagues in length and three in breadth: its population is supposed to amount to thirty thousand souls; of which, the capital contains about six thousand.

THE whole number of citizens or burgeses (in whom the supreme power ultimately resides) is about sixteen hundred. They are divided into twelve tribes: and from these are elected eighty-five members, who form the great and little council. To these two councils combined, the administration of affairs is committed: the senate, or little council of twenty-five, being entrusted with the executive power; and the great council, comprising the senate, finally deciding all appeals, and regulating the more important concerns of government.

THE revenues of the state are not very considerable, as will appear from the salary of the burgomaster, or chief of the republic; which barely amounts to £. 150 *per ann.* The reformation was introduced in 1529: the clergy are paid by the state, but their income is scarcely sufficient for their maintenance; the best living being only about £. 100, and the worst £. 40 *per ann.* The professors of literature also, who are taken from the clergy, are paid by government; and a
school

school is supported at the public expence. Sumptuary laws are in force here, as well as in most parts of Switzerland; and no dancing is allowed, except upon particular occasions. The principal article of exportation is wine; of which a large quantity is made, the country abounding in vineyards: and as the canton furnishes but little corn, it is procured from Suabia in exchange for wine. In the town there are a few manufactures of linen, cotton, and filk.

It will perhaps give you some idea of the security of the Swiss republics, when I inform you, that Schaffhausen, although a frontier town, has no garrison; and that the fortifications are but weak. The citizens mount guard by turns; and the people of the canton being divided into regular companies of militia, which are exercised yearly, are always prepared to act in defence of their country. This canton has some troops in France, Sardinia, and Holland; the only foreign services into which the subjects of the Protestant cantons enlist.

BEFORE I take leave of this town, I must not omit mentioning the bridge over the Rhine; justly admired for the singularity of its architecture. The river is extremely rapid, and had already destroyed several stone bridges of the strongest construction; when a carpenter of Appenzel offered to throw a wooden bridge, of a single arch, across the river, which is near four hundred feet wide. The magistrates, however, required that it should consist of two arches, and that he should for that purpose preserve the middle pier of the old bridge. Accordingly, the architect was obliged
to

to obey; but he has contrived to leave it a matter of doubt, whether the bridge is supported by the middle pier, and whether it would not have been equally safe if formed solely of one arch.

It is a wooden bridge, of which the sides and top are covered, and is what the Germans call a *hängewerk*, or hanging bridge; the road, which is almost level, is not carried, as usual, over the top of the arch; but, if I may use the expression, is let into the middle of it, and there suspended. The pier is not in a right line with the buttresses; as it forms with them an obtuse angle pointing down the stream, being eight feet out of the rectilinear direction. The distance of this middle pier from the side that lies towards the town, is a hundred and seventy-two feet, and from the opposite bank, a hundred and ninety-three; in all, three hundred and sixty-four feet; making in appearance two arches of a surprising width, and forming a beautiful perspective when viewed at some distance. A man of the slightest weight feels it almost tremble under him; yet waggons heavily laden pass over without danger. It has been compared to a tight rope, which trembles when struck, but still preserves its firm and equal tension. I went under this bridge, in order to examine the mechanism; and could not avoid being highly pleased with the simplicity of the architecture: I was not capable of determining whether it rests upon the middle pier, though many judges agree that it does not.

ON considering the greatness of the plan, and the boldness of the construction, it is matter of astonishment that the architect

architect was originally a carpenter, without the least tincture of literature, totally ignorant of mathematics, and not versed in the theory of mechanics. The name of this extraordinary man was Ulric Grubenman, a native of Tuffen, a small village in the canton of Appenzel. Possessed of uncommon natural abilities, and a surprising turn for the practical part of mechanics, he raised himself to great eminence; and may justly be considered as one of the most ingenious architects of the present century. This bridge was finished in less than three years, and cost ninety thousand florins*.

* About £. 8000 sterling.—Mr. Andræ, in his Letters upon Switzerland, has given two engravings of this bridge, to which he has added a very accurate description of its mechanical construction, communicated by Mr. Jetzler of Schaffhausen. In this description he represents it as consisting of two arches, and resting upon the middle pier. Several persons well skilled in architecture, maintained a contrary opinion; and in the former editions I was induced to adopt it, for the following reasons. The architect himself constantly maintained, that the bridge was not supported by the pier; his nephew, who was employed in its construction, confirmed the same assertion; and as, at first, it did not even touch the pier, it must therefore, at that time, have been considered as forming but one arch. I must, however, candidly own, that in my subsequent visits to Schaffhausen in 1785 and 1786, I had reason to change my opinion. At those periods the bridge was supported on piles, in order to undergo a thorough repair. Mr. Spengler, a native of the town,

and lately returned from Russia, where he had passed many years in the capacity of an architect, fortunately discovered, that much ill-seasoned wood having been employed in its construction, many of the timbers were absolutely decayed; and that one side had greatly swerved from its original direction. This ingenious artist, after having expatiated on the simplicity and boldness of the design, informed me, that the bridge undoubtedly consists of two arches: and that although Grubenman, of whose abilities he spoke with deserved encomium, affected to place the timbers in such a manner as to resemble but one arch, and always asserted that it was not supported by the pier; yet that the whole fabric would undoubtedly have fallen if that pier had been taken away. He obligingly shewed me his plan for repairing the bridge, and for strengthening it by means of additional timbers, in order to render it able to support its own weight, when the piles should be removed.—Vid. *Briefe aus der Schweiz nach Hannover geschrieben*. Zurich, 1776.

This



Ed. Allen fecit.

Ed. Smith del.

Fall of the Rhine.

Engraved on the old stone, 1794, by T. Smith, London.

THIS morning we rode about a league, to the Fall of the Rhine at Lauffen, a small village in the canton of Zurich. Our route lay over the hills which form the banks of the river: the environs are picturesque and agreeable; the river beautifully winding through the vale. Upon our arrival at Lauffen, we dismounted; and advancing to the edge of the precipice which overhangs the Rhine, we looked down perpendicularly upon the cataract, and saw the river tumbling over the sides of the rock with amazing violence and precipitation. From hence we descended till we were somewhat below the upper bed of the river, and stood close to the fall; so that I could almost have touched it with my hand. A scaffold is erected in the very spray of this tremendous cataract, and upon the most sublime point of view:—the sea of foam rushing down—the continual cloud of spray scattered to a great distance, and to a considerable height—in short, the magnificence of the whole scenery far surpassed my most sanguine expectations, and exceeds all description. Within an hundred feet of the scaffold, two crags rise in the middle of the fall: the nearest is perforated by the continual action of the river; and the water forces itself through in an oblique direction, with inexpressible fury, and an hollow sound. After having contemplated the awful sublimity of this wonderful landscape, we descended; and crossed the river, which was extremely agitated.

HITHERTO I had only viewed the cataract obliquely; but here it opened by degrees, and displayed another picture, which I enjoyed at my leisure, as I sat down upon the opposite bank. The most striking objects were, the castle of

Lauffen, erected upon the very edge of the precipice, and projecting over the river; near it, a church and some cottages; a clump of cottages close to the fall; in the back ground, rocks, planted with vines, or tufted with hanging woods; a beautiful little hamlet upon the summit, skirted with trees; the great body of water, that seemed to rush out from the bottom of the rocks; the two crags boldly advancing their heads in the midst of the fall, and in the very point of its steepest descent, their tops sprinkled with shrubs, and dividing the cataract into three principal branches. The colour of the Rhine is extremely beautiful, being of a clear sea-green; and I could not but remark the fine effect of the tints, when blended with the white foam in its descent. There is a pleasing view from an iron foundery close to the river, which is dammed up, in order to prevent its carrying away the works and neighbouring cottages: by means of this dam a small portion of the river is diverted, turns a mill, and forms a little silver current, gliding down the bare rock, and detached from the main cataract. Below the fall the river widens considerably into a more ample basin; at the fall, the breadth seemed to be about three hundred feet. In regard to its perpendicular height, travellers differ: those who are given to exaggeration compute it a hundred feet; but I should imagine about fifty or sixty feet will be nearer the truth. I stood for some upon the brink of the cataract; beheld with admiration; and listened in silence; then crossed the river; remounted my horse; and returned to Schaffhausen.

SOME writers have asserted that the Rhine precipitates itself in one sheet of water; and, as I before observed, from
a perpendicular

a perpendicular height of a hundred feet. In former ages this account might be agreeable to fact; as it is probable that the space between the banks was once a level rock, and considerably higher; and that the river has insensibly undermined those parts, on which it broke with the utmost violence: for, within the memory of several inhabitants of this town, a large rock has given way, that has greatly altered the appearance. Indeed I am convinced that the perpendicular height of the fall is diminished every year, by the continual friction of so large and rapid a body of water; and have no doubt but that the two crags, which now rise in the midst of the river, will in time be undermined and carried away. The Rhine, for some way before the fall, even near the bridge, dashes upon a rocky bottom, and renders navigation impracticable for any kind of vessel.

I am, &c.

L E T T E R 3.

ISLE OF REICHENAU — CONSTANCE — GENEVAN
ESTABLISHMENT — ISLE OF MEINAU — LAKE OF
CONSTANCE.

Constance, July 24.

YESTERDAY morning we quitted Schaffhausen, and crossed the Rhine at Dieffenhoffen, a small town in Thurgau; a country dependent upon the eight antient cantons: from thence to Stein the road lay by the side of that river. Stein is an independent town under the protection of Zurich, but governed by its own laws and magistrates. At this place we took a boat to carry us to Constance. A little above the town of Stein the river widens considerably, and forms the inferior lake of Constance, or the *Zeller See*; which is divided into two branches; from Stein to Constance is about sixteen miles, and from the latter to Zell, its greatest breadth, about ten.

A FINE breeze soon carried us to the island of Reichenau, which belongs to the Bishop of Constance; it is about three miles long, and one broad; contains about sixteen hundred inhabitants, all Catholics; three parishes; one village; and a rich abbey of Benedictines, of which the bishop is abbot. The superior was exceedingly civil, and shewed us all the relics and curiosities of the convent: among the latter was a carious tooth of Charles Le Gros. That monarch, who was
emperor

emperor and king of France, and who possessed dominions as extensive as those of Charlemagne, lived to want the common necessities of life, and to depend for his subsistence upon the charity of an archbishop of Mentz. He was publicly deposed in 887, at a meeting of the principal French, German, and Italian barons, whom he himself had summoned: after having languished a year, in extreme want and misery, he died at a small village near Mentz, in Germany, and his remains were conveyed to this convent. The next remarkable curiosity, was an emerald, as it is called, of an extraordinary size, which, according to the annals of the convent, was a present from Charlemagne. Take its dimensions, and then judge whether it can be an emerald: it has four unequal sides; the longest of which is near two feet, and the broadest about nine inches; it is one inch thick, and weighs about twenty-nine pounds. The superior valued it at £.4500; but if it is, as I conjecture, nothing more than a transparent green *spath-fluor*, its value will be reduced to a few shillings. Upon our return to the inn, where we dined, we found a present from the superior, more valuable than all the relics and curiosities of his convent—two bottles of excellent wine, the growth of the island, which is almost a continued vineyard.

IN the evening we arrived at Constance; the situation of which upon the Rhine, between the two lakes, is most delightful. I was much affected with the solitary appearance of a town once so flourishing in commerce, and so celebrated in the annals of history. A dead stillness reigns throughout; grass grows in the principal streets; in a word, it wears
the

the melancholy aspect of being almost totally deserted; and scarcely contains three thousand inhabitants. This city has endured a sad reverse of fortune: it was formerly in alliance with Zurich and Basle; and, supported by their assistance, had expelled the bishop, and embraced the reformation. But the Protestant cantons being worsted in 1351; and the league of Smalcade, of which Constance was a member, being defeated by Charles V. the town was obliged to submit to the emperor, and to re-admit the Catholic religion. From this period it lost its independence; and being neglected by the house of Austria, fell by degrees into its present almost annihilated state; exhibiting to some of the neighbouring Swiss cantons, an instructive contrast, which must sensibly endear to them their own invaluable happiness, in the commerce and liberties which they enjoy.

WE paid a visit to the chamber where the council of Constance was held in 1415, and had the honour of sitting in the two chairs, in which sat pope John XXIII.* and the emperor Sigismund; if any honour can be derived from a turbulent ecclesiastic, and a perjured sovereign. It was by a sentence of this council, that the celebrated reformer John Huss (having embraced the doctrines of our Wickliffe, and trusting to the protection of the emperor, who violated his word) was burnt as an heretic. The house is still shewn where he was seized, and upon which is fixed his head, carved in stone, but now almost defaced; with an inscription under it in German. Jerome of Prague, his disciple, had the weakness to recant before the same council, but this weakness was am-

* He was deposed in this council.

ply compensated by the greatness of soul with which he again retracted this recantation, and by the calm and intrepid magnanimity which he displayed in his last moments at the stake. From the top of the cathedral we had a superb view of the town, and of the two lakes; with the rugged Alps of Tyrol and Appenzel, their tops covered with perpetual snow.

CONSTANCE may again become a commercial town, through the permission granted by the emperor, to the emigrants from Geneva, of settling and carrying on their trade and manufactures, with very considerable privileges. Messrs. Roman and Meilly, watchmakers of Geneva, were the first persons, whom the troubles of their native republic drove to Constance. They received from the emperor the following immunities for themselves and countrymen.

THE right of purchasing or building houses; free exercise of religion, entirely independent of the Catholic clergy; the power of erecting a tribunal for the purpose of deciding all affairs relative to their manufactures and commerce; exemption from serving in the militia and quartering soldiers; from all contributions during the space of twenty years; from duties on their tools and utensils; and the standard of the gold and silver employed in their manufactures to be invariably fixed. These favourable terms, signed on the 30th of June, 1785, attracted many settlers to Constance; and in my second visit to this place, on the 25th of October, 1787, the new colony of Genevans consisted of seventy families, comprising three hundred and fifty persons; among these
were

were fifty-four watchmakers, who had introduced the different branches of manufacture which belong to their trade. Four hundred watches were already finished, and above fourteen hundred more were preparing. The emperor has also granted to Mr. Macaire the convent of Dominicans lately secularized, towards establishing a manufacture of printed linens and cottons. The refectory is appropriated for the chapel of the new colony.

I DID not omit visiting a small dungeon, about eight feet long, six broad, and seven high, in which John Huss was confined, and wherein I observed the very stone to which he had been chained. I entered it however with very different sensations from those which I experienced in 1776, when this convent was the asylum of monkish superstition. It is now the seat of trade and industry: and it must suggest a pleasing reflection to a philosophic mind, that a successor of Sigismund, who violated his word, should have consigned to a reformed establishment that very convent in which the Bohemian divine was imprisoned, and from which he was exultingly led to the stake; and that the most enlarged principles of toleration should be manifested in the same place, where persecution was inculcated by precept and example. It is the triumph of reason and religion over bigotry and intolerance.

I AM just returned from a pleasant expedition to the small island of Meinau, in a bay of the superior lake: this island, about a mile in circumference, belongs to the knights of the
Teutonic

Teutonic order. The bailiff shewed us the house of the commander, which is prettily situated, and has a fine prospect of the lake, but contains nothing remarkable but the cellars, which are well stocked with wine; an article from which the chief revenue of the commandery arises. Our good friend the bailiff was very free in offering it; and we, not to appear insensible of his civility, were constrained to taste several different sorts, which he successively presented, always praising the last as the oldest and most exquisite. The wine was indeed excellent, the glasses large, and a most formidable row of enormous casks still remained untasted; so that, after having duly extolled several specimens, we found it expedient to decline the farther solicitations of our generous host: for, had we performed the whole ceremony, we must have taken up our abode in the castle for the night.

July 25.

WE set sail about two hours ago from Constance. This superior lake, or, as it is sometimes called, the *Boden See*, is about fifteen leagues in length and six in its greatest breadth: it is one of the great boundaries that separate Switzerland from Germany. The borders on each side consist of gently rising hills; on the left hand Suabia, and on the right Thurgau, with a variety of scattered towns, villages, and monasteries: the form of the lake inclines to an oval, and the water is of a greenish hue. I am now writing aboard the vessel; and have been for some time in vain attempting to distinguish (what some travellers have affirmed to be discernable) the waters of the Rhine from those of the lake; though indeed I was before almost convinced of the impossibility.

fibility. For the river in its course from the superior lake, being exactly of the same beautiful greenish colour as the inferior lake into which it flows; it is evident that the one can never be distinguished from the other. Probably, upon its first entrance into the superior lake it is troubled, and consequently, for some way, its current may easily be traced: but it purifies by degrees, and becomes an indistinct part of the great body of water.

THIS lake, like all the other lakes of Switzerland, is considerably deeper in summer than in winter; a circumstance owing to the first melting of the snow from the neighbouring mountains: it abounds in fish of various sorts. Yesterday evening, in our expedition to Meinau, there was scarcely a breeze stirring, and the lake was as smooth as chrystal; a brisk gale has now raised a fine curl upon the surface; and the surrounding landscape forms an assemblage of the most beautiful objects. In short, the several views which present themselves are so truly enchanting, as to make me regret every moment that my eyes are called off from the delightful scenes. You will not wonder, therefore, if I am tempted to bid you adieu somewhat abruptly.

Yours, &c.

P. S. The following description of the great trout, which frequents all the Swiss lakes, but more particularly abounds in the lake of Constance, was communicated by Thomas Pennant, Esq. This species of trout is called in this neighbourhood *Illankin*, and by Linnæus, *Salmo Lacustris*. The head

head is conical, and larger in proportion than that of a salmon. The dorsal fin has twelve rays; pectoral, fourteen; ventral and anal, twelve each. The under jaw, in full-grown fish, ends in a blunt hook. The colour, as low as the lateral line, of a deep blue, brightening as it approaches the line; beneath that, of a silvery white; all the upper part is spotted irregularly with black. This kind grows to the weight of forty or forty-five pounds.

THESE fishes quit the deeps of the lake in April, and go up the Rhine to deposit their spawn. The inhabitants of the shores form weirs across the river, in which they take them in their passage. They are also caught in nets. The fishery lasts from May to September; the fishermen avoid taking any on the return, as they are then very lean and quite exhausted. In spring and summer their flesh is of a fine red, and very delicate; but after they have spawned, it turns white and becomes very indifferent. They feed on fish, worms, and insects; and are particularly destructive to the graylings. Their great enemy is the Pike, which will attack an Illankin four times as large as itself. For a further account, the reader may consult the elegant Ichthyologie by Mr. Block, vol. iii. p. 155, who is the first naturalist that has given a satisfactory account of this gigantic species.

L E T T E R 4.

ST. GALLEN—CANTON OF APPENZEL.

July 26.

I WRITE to you from the midst of the Alps, under the shade of a grove of beeches, while a clear stream of water, flowing at my feet, forms a natural cascade down the rock. I have just made a hearty meal upon some bread and cheese; which I found to be a most delicious repast, after walking six miles over the mountains of Appenzel.

WE this day quitted St. Gallen, and walked to Appenzel. The country is singularly wild and romantic; consisting of a continued series of hills and dales, vallies and mountains, the tops of which are crowned with most luxuriant pastures. I could not have conceived it possible, without having been an eye-witness, that any district within the same compass could have exhibited so numerous a population; the hills and vales being thickly strewed with hamlets, scattered at small distances from each other. The picturesque mountains, the forests, the currents which we crossed, over bridges resembling those I have observed in some of the best landscapes, added to the beauty of the scenes, and diversified every step with the most pleasing objects. After having reposed for a short time in this delightful spot, I cannot employ myself more to my satisfaction than by continuing my journal.

IN

IN my last letter I took my leave of you upon the lake of Constance: we landed at Roshach, a small burgh in the dominions of the abbot of St. Gallen, agreeably situated in the midst of a bay at the edge of the lake, and at the bottom of a rising hill, richly covered with wood and pasturages. From Roshach we went to St. Gallen, the whole territory whereof does not exceed a mile and a half in circumference; and including the town contains near eight thousand inhabitants. There every thing was alive; all persons wore the appearance of industry and activity; exhibiting a striking opposition to Constance, which we had just quitted.

THE abbot and town of St. Gallen are both allies of the Swiss cantons, and each enjoys the privilege of sending deputies to the general diet. The abbot of St. Gallen is titular prince of the German empire, and is chosen by the seventy-two Benedictines, who compose this chapter. He formerly possessed the sovereignty of the town; but the inhabitants shook off his authority, and became independent: and the various disputes which, since that period, have arisen between the two rival parties, have been compromised by the interposition of the Swiss cantons. The town is entirely Protestant, and its government aristo-democratical: the subjects of the abbot (whose territory is very extensive) are mostly Catholics. It is remarkable, that the abbey in which the prince resides, is situated close to the town, and in the midst of its territory; as the town is also entirely surrounded by the possessions of the prince.

ST. GALLEN owes its flourishing state to the uncommon industry of the inhabitants, and to a very extensive commerce,

merce, arising chiefly from its manufactures of linen, muslin, and embroidery. In a place so entirely commercial, I was astonished to find the arts and sciences cultivated, and literature in the highest esteem. In the library there are thirteen volumes in folio, containing manuscript letters of the first German and Swiss reformers. Luther ends a letter to Melancthon as follows :

Pestis eram vivus, moriens ero mors tua, Papa.

These letters would probably throw much light on the history of the reformation.

THE library belonging to the abbey is very numerous and well arranged ; and, among a number of monkish manuscripts, contains several of the classic writers, which engaged my chief attention. To this library we owe Petronius Arbitrator, Silius Italicus, Valerius Flaccus, and Quintilian, copies of which were found in 1413 : it was formerly very rich in curious manuscripts ; but several being borrowed, during the council of Constance, by the cardinals and bishops, were never returned.

THE transition from the abbot of St. Gallen to the canton of Appenzel will not appear abrupt, as Appenzel once belonged to the abbot : the inhabitants, however, being loaded with exorbitant and oppressive taxes, revolted in 1400 ; and maintained their independence with the desperate courage of a spirited people, who fight for their liberties. In 1452 they entered into a perpetual alliance with some of the neighbouring Swiss republics ; and in 1513 were admitted into the
Helvetic

Helvetic confederacy: they hold the last rank among the thirteen cantons.

BEFORE the reformation the whole canton was under one government; but since that period, part of the inhabitants having embraced the Protestant religion, and the other part continuing Catholics, violent disputes were kindled between them; which, after much contest, were at length compromised. By an agreement in 1597, the canton was divided into two portions; *Rhodes Exterior*, and *Rhodes Interior*: it was stipulated, that the former should be appropriated to the Protestants, and the latter to the Catholics. Accordingly the two parties finally separated, and formed two republics; their government, police, and finances, being totally independent of each other. Each district sends a deputy to the general diet: the whole canton, however, has but one vote, and loses its suffrage if the two parties are not unanimous. In both divisions the sovereign power is vested in the people at large; every male, who is past sixteen, having a vote in their general assembly, held yearly for the creation of their magistrates and the purposes of legislation: and each voter is obliged to appear armed on that particular occasion. The Landamman is the first magistrate: in each district there are two, who administer the office alternately, and are confirmed yearly. They have each a council, which possesses jurisdiction in civil and criminal causes, has the care of the police, the management of the finances, and the general administration of affairs. The Landamman regent presides; and the other, during the year in which he is out of office, is banneret or chief of the militia.

THE

THE *Rhodes Exterior* is much larger, and more peopled in proportion, than the *Interior*; and the Protestants are in general more commercial and industrious than the Catholics.—The Protestants are supposed to amount to thirty-seven thousand; the Catholics to twelve thousand: an extraordinary number in so small a canton, entirely mountainous, and of which a great part consists of barren and inaccessible rocks. But the industry of the inhabitants amply compensates for any disadvantages of soil: for, the people are frugal and laborious; their property is secured; and they are exempted from all burdensome and arbitrary taxes. These circumstances, joined to the right of partaking of the legislation, and of electing their magistrates, inspire them with such animated sentiments of their own importance and independence, as excite the most active and vigorous industry: and those necessities, to which this industry is not sufficient, are abundantly supplied by their neighbours, in exchange for manufactures and other articles of domestic commerce. The chief part of the habitable country consists of rich pastures; and of course their principal exports are cattle and hides, together with cheese and butter. Their manufactures are coarse callicots and muslins in great quantities, which are entirely made in the houses of the inhabitants. The cotton is spun with the common wheel. The web is bleached at home; and afterwards sent to be printed in the neighbourhood of Neuchatel. The greatest bleachery I saw in the Alps was near Appenzel, which extended over three or four acres of ground. Part of the river Sitler is diverted to turn the mill, which is of the simplest construction. A large wheel on the outside works a long cylinder within; on which are fixed a
number

number of cogs to raise the hammers which beat the webs. In the same place are the boilers and other conveniences for the business. The only water-mills for spinning cotton which I saw in Switzerland, were near Neuchatel and Geneva; but greatly inferior in size and ingenuity of machinery to those of England. The flourishing state of the cotton manufactory has rendered many persons in the Protestant districts easy in their circumstances, and even wealthy; if wealth is to be estimated from the general state of the natives, and not from the comparative view of distant and greater opulence in large commercial cities. The villages of Trogen and Undevil announce, by their superior neatness, the well-being of their inhabitants.

THIS canton contains no enclosed towns, but only two or three open burghs, of which Appenzel is the largest in the Catholic, Trogen, Undevil, and Herisau, in the Protestant district, and a few villages: indeed the whole country, except amongst the barren rocks, is almost a continued village, being thickly covered with excellent cottages. Each cottage has its little territory, or a field or two of fine pasture ground, which are frequently skirted with trees. The mountains are for the most part beautifully wooded; and the canton is supplied with water in such abundance, that we could hardly walk two hundred paces without seeing a spring bubble from the ground, or a torrent rush down the sides of a rock.

IN our way to Appenzel, we entered several houses, which are all built of wood; neatness and convenience being the principal object of the owners: such a remarkable clean-

liness prevailed throughout, as afforded a most striking proof of the general attention which the people pay to that essential article. A continued chain of these cultivated mountains, richly clothed with wood, and thickly studded with hamlets, which appear to have been placed by the genius of taste in the very spots where they would form the most striking effect, exhibit a series of landscapes inexpressibly pleasing: it seemed as if they belonged to independent clans; independent but social, uniting for the great purposes of legislation, and for the general preservation of their liberties.

AMONG the chief part of the inhabitants, the original simplicity of the pastoral life is still preserved; and I saw several venerable figures with long beards, that resembled the pictures of the antient patriarchs. The natives of this canton, in common with the inhabitants of democracies, possess a natural frankness, and peculiar tone of equality, which arise from a consciousness of their own independence. They also display a fund of original humour, and are remarkable for great quickness of repartee, and rude sallies of wit, which render their conversation extremely agreeable and interesting.

IN our way to Appenzel we passed through Tuffen, the birth-place of Ulric Grubenman *: he has been dead some years: but his abilities and his skill in practical architecture are, if I may use the expression, hereditary in his family. We inquired for one of the same name, who was either his

* See p. 8.

brother or his nephew, whom we found at the alehouse; his usual place of resort when he has no particular employment. He is a heavy, coarse-looking man, dressed like a common peasant; has a quick and penetrating eye, and a surprising readiness of conversation. We told him that we were Englishmen, who were making the tour of Switzerland; and that we could not pass through Tuffen without desiring to see a man who was so much celebrated for his skill in architecture. He struck his breast, and replied in German, "Here you see but a boor." Upon our talking with him about the bridge of Schaffhausen, in the building of which he was employed, he assured us, that it does not rest upon the middle pier, but is in reality a single arch. Near Appenzel we observed an old man with venerable white hair hanging over his shoulders, who looked like a substantial farmer: he inquired with a tone of authority, but with perfect civility, who we were; and upon our asking the same question respecting himself, of our guide, we were informed, that he was the *Landamman*, or chief of the republic. Happy people, the nature of whose country, and the constitution of whose government, both equally oppose the strongest barriers against the introduction of luxury!

DOCTOR GIRTANNER, of St. Gallen, found in great abundance, on the top of the Appenzel mountains, the *Draba Pyrenaica* of Linnæus, not mentioned by Haller in his catalogue of the Swiss plants.

Yours, &c.

Appenzel, July 27.

LETTER 5.

VALLEY OF THE RHINE—THE LAKE AND TOWN OF
WALLENSTADT.

Salets, July 27.

WE are this moment arrived at the village of Salets; where we propose passing the night: while supper is preparing, I will continue my journal. We could procure but three horses at Appenzel, and as one of them was appropriated to the baggage, I preferred walking. After having traversed a league in the canton, over a continued range of mountains, enriched with beautiful meadows, and dotted with cottages, I arrived at its boundary; here the scene suddenly changed into a wild forest of pines, without the least appearance of any habitation. The road is scarcely more than three feet broad; and is either paved with large uneven pieces of rock, or formed with thick stakes laid closely together: but as the ground is in many parts soft, these stakes in some places sink deeper, and form a succession of uneven steps. The mountain by which we descended into the plain, is very steep; which circumstance, added to the unevenness of the stakes, makes the ascent and descent exceedingly difficult for horses. Those who are pleased with an uniform view, may continue in the plain; while others, who delight in the grand and the sublime, and are struck with the wantonness of wild, uncultivated nature, will prefer this road to the smoothest turnpike in Great Britain.

I WALKED

I WALKED slowly on, without envying my companions on horseback : for I could sit down upon an inviting spot, climb to the edge of a precipice, or trace a torrent by its found. I descended at length into the *Rheinthal*, or Valley of the Rhine; the mountains of Tyrol, which yielded neither in height or in cragginess to those of Appenzel, rising before me. And here I found a remarkable difference : for although the ascending and descending was a work of some labour ; yet the variety of the scenes had given me spirits, and I was not sensible of the least fatigue. But in the plain, notwithstanding the scenery was still beautiful and picturesque, I saw at once the whole way stretching before me, and had no room for fresh expectations : I was not therefore displeased when I arrived at Oberried, after a walk of about twelve miles, my coat slung upon my shoulder like a peripatetic by profession. Here we procured a narrow cart ; in which, the roads being rough and stony, you will readily believe we were not much at our ease. The evening however being fine, and the moon exceedingly bright, our journey was not altogether disagreeable ; as it led us through a delightful country abounding in vines, fruit-trees, flax, and pasturage.

THE Rheinthal is a bailliage belonging to Appenzel and the eight antient cantons, which alternately appoint a bailif. The people are of both religions, but the Protestants are the most numerous.

WE

Wallenstadt, July 28.

WE quitted Salets this morning, in the same cart in which we arrived; and it would have afforded matter of some speculation, to observe how we contrived to arrange ourselves, our servants, a large Newfoundland dog, and the baggage, in so narrow a compass: indeed we were so wedged in, that, after we had once fixed ourselves in our several places, it was almost impossible to stir. The day was sultry, and the sun powerful, the road bad, and the cart went barely at the rate of three miles an hour; but the country still continued so picturesque and mountainous; and our attention was so entirely engaged with the perpetual variety of objects presented to our view, as to make us forget the inconveniences of our equipage, and the excessive heat of the weather. From Trivabach, a small village upon the Rhine, we walked to Sargans, the capital of a bailliage of the same name, belonging to the eight antient cantons.

LET me here remark, that in Switzerland there are two sorts of bailliages: the one consisting of certain districts, into which all the aristocratical cantons are divided; and over these a particular officer, called a *bailif*, is appointed by government, to which he is accountable for his administration: the other sort are the territories that do not make part of the cantons, but are subject to two or more of them, who by turns appoint a bailif. This officer, when not restrained by the peculiar privilege of certain districts, has the care of the police, jurisdiction in civil and criminal causes, with some limitations; and enjoys a stated revenue arising in different places

places from various duties and taxes. In case of exaction or mal-administration, an appeal always lies from the bailif to the cantons, to which the bailliage belongs; and the place, the time, and the members who receive the appeal are regulated with the utmost exactness. With respect to this of Sargans, and the others belonging to the eight antient cantons conjointly; at the conclusion of the general diet held annually at Frauenfeld in Thurgau, the deputies of these cantons resolve themselves into a Syndicate, examine the accounts of the public revenues as delivered by the bailifs of the respective districts, and receive and judge all appeals; in some cases finally; but in the more important causes an appeal lies from this assembly to the superior tribunal of each canton. The theory of this institution, has a plausible appearance of impartiality: but how far the practice accords with the theory, I cannot pretend to determine. Whether a bailif, who is guilty of extortion, is easily brought to justice, or more easily screened? how far the members of the Syndicate are liable to influence, or open to corruption? how far the expence of appeals renders them in many cases impracticable to the poorer inhabitants? are questions which cannot be answered but by a person well informed concerning these courts of justice.

WE arrived late at Wallenstadt, a town incorporated into the bailliage of Sargans, but enjoying several distinct privileges: it derives its existence from the passage of the merchandise transported from Germany through the Grisons to Italy. This communication occasions the frequent resort of Italian merchants; and that language is understood by many
of

of the inhabitants. Our landlord speaks Italian, and has been very accurate in his answers to my questions relating to the number of inhabitants, the government of the town, its dependence upon the bailif, and its privileges. Nor is this a matter of wonder: for the innkeepers in Switzerland are mostly *burghers*, and are frequently members of the sovereign council; and, from the very nature of their governments, the Swiss in general are well informed of their particular constitutions. I have also held a long conversation with a native of Glarus, who has furnished me with much information in relation to that canton: which we purpose visiting to-morrow.

Wesen, July 29.

THE lake of Wallenstadt, about twelve miles in length, and two in breadth, is entirely bounded by high mountains, except to the east and west. From this situation, a breeze generally blows from those two quarters, beginning at break of day, and continuing for some hours; then changes from west to east till sun-set: this breeze is very convenient for the transportation of the merchandise. Sometimes however a violent north-wind rushes down from the mountains, and renders the navigation dangerous. We were assured by the inhabitants, and by the waterman who rowed us from Wallenstadt to this place, that the breeze was generally constant: but we cannot attest it from our own experience; as we set out this morning about eight, and the wind was directly contrary the whole way, blowing from west to east. The weather, it is true, was heavy, overcast, and rainy, which might cause perhaps this occasional variation.

THE

THE scenery of the lake is uncommonly wild and picturesque, and affords a perpetual variety of beautiful and romantic scenes. On the side of Glarus, the mountains which form its borders, are chiefly cultivated; enriched with wood or fine meadows; and studded with cottages, churches, and small villages; the Alps of Glarus rising behind, their tops covered with snow. On the other side, for the most part, the rocks are grotesque, craggy, inaccessible, and perpendicular: but here and there a few cultivated necks of land are formed at the very edge of the lake, and at the bottom of these very rocks; exhibiting a beautiful contrast to the barrenness above and around them. Numberless water-falls, occasioned by the melting of the snows, fall down the sides of the mountains from a very considerable height, and with an almost inconceivable variety; some of them seeming to glide gently in circular directions; others forming vast torrents, and rushing into the lake with noise and violence: all of them changing their form and their position as we approached or receded from them. The lake is exceedingly clear, deep, and cold, and, as we were informed, is never frozen.

THERE is nothing remarkable in this place; being a small village situated almost upon the point where the Mat issues from the lake of Wallenstadt: that little river is joined by the Linth, and both united fall, under the name of Limmat, into the lake of Zurich.

I am, &c.

L E T T E R 6.

THE CANTON OF GLARUS.

Glarus, July 29.

THE canton of Glarus was formerly subject to the abbess of the convent of Seckingen in Suabia: the people however enjoyed very considerable privileges, and a democratical form of government, under the administration of a mayor, appointed by the abbess, but chosen among the inhabitants. Towards the latter end of the thirteenth century, the emperor Rodolph I. obtained the exclusive administration of justice; and not long afterwards his son Albert, having purchased the mayoralty, which had gradually become hereditary, re-united in his person the whole civil and judicial authority. Accordingly that prince, and his immediate descendants the dukes of Austria, oppressed the people, and ruled over them with an absolute sway. In 1350, Schwyz, assisted by Zurich, Lucerne, Uri, and Unterwalden, expelled the Austrians from the canton of Glarus, and re-established the democracy. Glarus then entered into a perpetual alliance with its deliverers, and was received into the Helvetic confederacy with some restrictions, which were not abolished until 1450. At that time it was the sixth canton, but is now the last in rank of the eight *antient* cantons, as they are called; being so distinguished, because, from the accession of Zug and Berne in 1352, more than a century elapsed before a new member was admitted. These *antient* cantons

cantons have also several privileges superior to the five others; the latter having submitted to some particular restrictions, upon their reception into the Helvetic league.

THE people of Glarus enjoyed their liberties unmolested till 1388, when the Austrians made an irruption into the canton, with a force sufficient, as they arrogantly thought, totally to subdue it; pillaging the country, and massacring the inhabitants. It was then that three hundred and fifty troops of Glarus, and thirty Switzers, posted advantageously upon the mountains, resisted the whole strength of the Austrian army, to the number of fifteen thousand, at a village called Næfels. In this situation the Austrians began the attack; but were soon compelled to retreat with great precipitation, by a shower of stones poured upon them from the heights: in this moment of confusion, the inhabitants rushed down upon the enemy with such fury, that they broke their ranks; and, after an immense slaughter, forced the remainder to retire from the canton. Such surprising victories, gained by a handful of men against an enemy so much superior in number (instances of which are by no means rare in the history of Switzerland) render the wonderful combats of Marathon and Platæa, when the Greeks repulsed the numerous hosts of the whole Persian empire, perfectly credible. The same love of independence, the same dread of slavery, and the same attachment to their country, animated the respective nations to the same deeds of heroism; and in both instances victory was followed by the same glorious consequences: for the Swiss, as well as the Greeks, owe the rise and preservation of their liberties to that magnanimous and

determined valour, which prefers death to living under the servile domination of an arbitrary despot. The people still celebrate the anniversary of this victory, which insured their independence: and I saw near the village of Næfels several stones, with no other inscription than 1388: an inscription which no more requires explanation, to an inhabitant of the canton, than the glorious æra of 1688, to an Englishman.

IN the sixteenth century, the reformation was introduced into this canton, but not exclusively: both religions are tolerated, and the two sects live together in the greatest harmony; an union the more remarkable, when we consider the fatal quarrels that have been kindled in Switzerland on account of religious tenets; and that in Appenzel the division between the two sects is distinctly marked by their inhabiting different districts, and living under separate governments. In several parts of this canton, the Protestants and Catholics successively perform service in the same church; and all the offices of state are amicably administered by the two parties. During the present and preceding century, the Protestants have increased considerably in number; and their industry, in every branch of commerce, is greatly superior: an evident proof how much the tenets of the Roman Catholic church fetter the genius, and depress the powers of exertion.

THE government is entirely democratical: every person at the age of sixteen has a vote in the *Landsgemeind*, or general assembly, which is annually held in an open plain. This assembly ratifies new laws, lays contributions, enters into alliances; declares war, and makes peace. The *Landamman* is

is the chief of the republic, and is chosen alternately from the two sects; with this difference, that the *Protestant* remains three years in office, the *Catholic* only two. The manner of election is as follows: five candidates chosen by the people draw lots for the charge. The other great officers of state, and the bailiffs, are taken also by lot from a certain number of candidates proposed by the people. The executive power is vested in the council of regency, composed of forty-eight Protestants, and fifteen Catholics: each sect has its particular court of justice; and it is necessary, that in all law-suits between two persons of different religions, the person having the casting voice among the five or nine judges, who are to determine the cause, should be of the same religion as the defendant.

CATTLE, cheese, and butter, constitute the principal commerce of the canton. The cattle are fed in summer upon the Alps: and it is computed, that ten thousand head of large cattle, and four thousand sheep, are pastured during that season upon the mountains belonging to the canton. The inhabitants also manufacture linen and muslins.

AMONG the exports a considerable article is slate; with which the canton abounds. The principal quarry is in the valley of Sernft, where large slates are dug up that serve for tables. These quarries, as I am informed by Mr. David Pennant, once furnished Great Britain with slates for writing, or accountants slates; but this trade is entirely lost. Of late they have been prepared from the great slate quarries in Caernarvonshire, the property of Lord Penryn; and with
such

such success, as bids fair to extend this article of commerce over most part of Europe.

July 30th.

I AM just returned to Glarus, after having made an excursion towards the extremity of the canton: it is entirely enclosed by the alps, except towards the north; and there is no other entrance but through this opening, which lies between the lake of Wallenstadt and the mountains separating this canton from that of Schweitz. Passengers indeed may in summer traverse these alps to the Grisons on one side, and to Uri on the other: but these paths are in winter absolutely impracticable. At the entrance above-mentioned, the canton reaches, from the banks of the Linth to the farthest extremity of its alps, about thirty miles; forming a valley, which becomes narrower as you advance, and is scarcely more than a musket-shot in breadth at the burgh of Glarus. It afterwards opens by degrees; and about a league from Glarus, is divided by the Freyberg mountains: at the point of this division the two rivers, Linth and Sernft, unite.

WE continued through the largest of these vallies, which, though very narrow, is exceedingly populous. You have been at Matlock in Derbyshire, and I remember your admiration of its beautiful and romantic situation: the scenery of this valley is of the same cast, but infinitely more picturesque, more wild, more varied, and more sublime. The Linth is much broader and more rapid than the Derwent; and the hillocks of the Peake are mere mole-hills to the alps of Glarus.

Glarus. These stupendous chains of rocks are absolutely perpendicular, approach one another so near and are so high, that the sun may be said to set, even in summer, at four in the afternoon. On each side are numbers of those waterfalls we so much admired during our passage over the lake of Wallenstadt; one in particular, near the village of Ruti, foamed down the steep sides of a mountain, from the midst of a hanging grove of trees. I was so captivated with these enchanting scenes, that I could not help stopping every moment to admire them: and our guide, not conceiving it possible, that these delays could be owing to any other cause than the laziness of the horse, never failed to strike the poor beast; and continually awakened me out of my rapturous contemplations; and it was some time before I could make him comprehend, that I stopped by choice, and wished to continue my own pace. After having rode about ten miles, we quitted our horses and walked. Near Leugelbach, a considerable rivulet is formed by two streams bursting from the ground at the foot of a mountain, which after a few paces unite, and fall into the Linth: beside these two principal branches, several smaller springs, and numberless little fountains, gush from the rock.—The clearness of the streams; their rapidity and murmuring sound; the trees that hang over the point from whence they issue; the rude rocks above; the rich meadows and scattered hamlets—all together form an assemblage of the most lively and pleasing objects that ever entered into a beautiful landscape.

I AM informed by David Pennant, Esq. that Salmon force their way annually from the sea as high as this river,
to

to deposit their spawn. Their progress is up the Rhine, and out of that noble river up the Aar, and through the lake of Zurich into the Linth; a course of many hundred miles. They are taken in these distant parts in September and October, and about the size of seventeen or twenty pounds weight.

WE crossed the Linth several times, which rushes with all the violence of a torrent; and came at length to an amphitheatre of mountains, where the valley ended: on our right-hand a torrent more considerable than any we had yet seen, tumbling perpendicularly over a bare rock in a large body of water; the alps on each side crowned with inaccessible forests, and covered with everlasting snow; before us a pyramidal mountain, bare and craggy; and the glaciers of Glarus closing the view. Here the valley, and the habitable part of the canton terminate. We then quitted the plain, and ascending through a wild forest of beech and pines, continued more than an hour mounting a very steep and rugged path, till we came to the Panten-Bruck, a bridge over the cataract that forms the Linth, which is here called the Sand-bach: it roars from the glacier down the steep mountain in one unbroken fall; and, a little way before its arrival under the bridge, works itself a subterraneous passage through the rock, where it is lost only to appear again with increased violence. The bridge is a single arch of stone, about seventy feet in length, thrown over a precipice more than three hundred feet in depth. It serves as a communication with the upper alps, and is the passage for the cattle which are fed there during the summer months; on the other side
some

some goats came jumping around us, and seemed to welcome us to their dreary habitations. These mountains are covered with a great variety of rare plants, which made me regret, that I had not pursued my botanical studies. As I leaned upon the parapet of the bridge, and looked down into the chasm, my head almost turned giddy with the height. The rock, down which the Sand-bach drives, is composed of slate. After we had continued some time admiring the sublime horror of the scenery, we descended into the valley, and made a hearty meal upon some excellent bread, honey, butter, and milk, which a neighbouring cottage supplied. As the canton almost entirely consists of rich meadows, the milk and butter are delicious; and the honey of these mountainous countries is most exquisite. Nothing delights me so much as the inside of a Swiss cottage: all those I have hitherto visited, convey the liveliest image of cleanliness, ease, and simplicity; and cannot but strongly impress upon the observer a most pleasing conviction of the peasant's happiness.

IF I had never seen these little democratical states, I could have formed no idea of the general equality and indistinction that prevails among the inhabitants. All the houses, like those of Appenzel, are built of wood; large, solid, and compact, with great penthouse roofs that hang very low, and extend beyond the area of the foundation. This peculiar structure is of use to keep off the snow; and, from its singularity, accords surprisingly with the beautiful wildness of the country. The houses of the richer inhabitants

in the principal burghs, are of the same materials : the only difference consists in their being larger.

IF that sort of government be confessedly the best, which constitutes the greatest good of the greatest number in the community ; these little states, notwithstanding the natural defects of a democratical constitution, may justly claim a large share of our approbation. General liberty, general independence, and an exemption from arbitrary taxes, are blessings which amply compensate for a want of those refinements that are introduced by opulence and luxury. But it is only in these small republics, and in such a state of society, that this kind of general democracy can have place. Although the machine of government is considerably clogged by the variety of wheels required to put it into motion ; yet it is not necessary that its decisions should be sudden and expeditious : for, as there is no fear of an invasion, and as the people have no conquests either to make or to defend ; their principal policy consists in maintaining their independence, and in preserving the public tranquillity. The police is well regulated throughout Switzerland ; and even in these democratical states, liberty does not often degenerate into licentiousness : we may except, perhaps, the day of their general assemblies, when it is impossible to prevent some degree of confusion in a meeting where there is scarcely any distinction of persons ; and where every peasant considers himself as equal to the first magistrate.

OUR

OUR host is an open-hearted, honest Swift : he brings his pint of wine, sits down to table with us, and chats without the least ceremony. There is a certain forwardness of this kind which is insupportable when it apparently is the effect of impertinent curiosity, or fawning officiousness ; but the present instance of frank familiarity, arising from a mind conscious of natural equality, and unconstrained by arbitrary distinctions, is highly pleasing ; as the simple demeanour of unsophisticated nature is far preferable to the false refinements of artificial manners.

I am, &c.

LETTER 7.

THE ABBEY OF EINSIDLIN—RAPPERSCHWYL.

Einsidlin, July 31.

WE could not pass through this part of the country, without making a pilgrimage to Einsidlin, and paying our respects to this celebrated shrine: an object of much devotion among the Catholics. Einsidlin, or *Notre Dame des Hermites*, is a rich and magnificent abbey of Benedictines in the canton of Schwitz, which owes its celebrity to the miraculous image, as it is called, of the Virgin Mary. The ridiculous tales they relate of the origin and aggrandizement of this abbey, are so many melancholy instances of the credulity of the darker ages: that they are still believed in the present enlightened century, must be attributed to the force of habitual prejudice; and at the same time proves, how difficult it is for the human mind to shake off those superstitious errors, which it has early imbibed under the name of religion.

IN the ninth century a certain hermit called Meinrad, was the first who retired to this place, where he built a chapel, and was assassinated by robbers. But shall I tell you, or (what is more to the purpose) will you believe me if I tell you, that this murder was discovered by two crows, who followed the assassins to Zurich, where they were seized and executed?

cuted? Soon after, the dead body of St. Meinrad of course works miracles; and all the world pilgrimises to his bones. The sanctity of this place being thus established, some one (for whether it were St. Benno or St. Eberhard, or what other faint I cannot precisely determine) constructed another chapel, which he dedicated to the Virgin, and laid the first foundation of the abbey; having bequeathed for that purpose his whole fortune: and the pious fund was soon considerably augmented by subsequent donations. Shall I tell you also, that in 948, Conrad, bishop of Constance, as he was going to consecrate the chapel, heard a voice from heaven, assuring him, that God himself had consecrated it? Whatever was its origin, and whoever was its founder; crowds of pilgrims resort hither from all quarters to adore the Virgin, and to present their offerings: and it is computed, that upon the most moderate calculation, their number amounts yearly to 100,000. The circumjacent country was formerly a continued forest, which since the foundation of the abbey has been gradually converted into rich pastures and beautiful meadows: and this is a miracle which the Virgin, in a certain sense, may be truly said to have performed.

August 1.

I HAVE just been visiting the abbey, the chapel of the Virgin, and her immense treasures. The church of the abbey is a large and magnificent building, but exhibits a remarkable specimen of false taste, by being loaded with bad paintings, and superfluous ornaments. In the aisle not far from the entrance, is a small and elegant marble chapel of the Corinthian order: this is the celebrated shrine of the Virgin,

Virgin, to which the pilgrims resort. On the outside an angel supports the following inscription :

Hic est plena remissio peccatorum omnium a culpâ et pœnâ.

Over the door is a plate of silver with five holes, into which I saw several persons thrusting their fingers, and praying at the same time with great fervour : upon inquiry I found, that the credulous people believed these holes to be the marks of God's fingers. In the inside of this chapel is the image of the Virgin, which vies with the Lady of Loretto in *beauty* of countenance ; her face, as well as that of the child she holds in her arms, being black. She is richly apparelled, and changes her garment every week ; her wardrobe consisting of fifty-two different suits.

THE riches of the treasury are immense ; containing numberless offerings of gold, silver, and precious stones, arranged in the most ridiculous manner ; skulls and bones sumptuously ornamented ; whole skeletons of saints in masquerade, and of ladies with ruffles, fly-caps, and splendid apparel as if dressed for a ball. What a wretched insult upon poor human nature ! I could not help considering them with a mixture of pity and indignation, as the offerings of ignorance before the shrine of bigotry and superstition. The miracles which the Virgin has wrought in this country are infinite, if we may judge from the numerous figures of ears, eyes, legs, arms, heads, &c. presented by those, who fancied themselves respectively cured in those several members, by the power of this wonder-working image.

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I WAS glad however to find, in the midst of this superstitious trumpery, a good library, which contained some fine editions of the classics.

IN this place there is a considerable traffic in rosaries, crosses, and little images; and there are rows of shops, where nothing is to be purchased but these necessary appendages of the Roman Catholic religion: it has all the appearance of a fair. There is also a room in the abbey, where the same kind of merchandise is exposed to sale; and one of the friars attends to receive your money, and very gravely assures you, that the several articles have touched the sacred image. Among other curiosities of this kind, I purchased two ribbands, for two-pence each, with the following inscription upon them: *Ce Ruban entier, est la longueur; jusqu'au trait est l'épaisseur, de l'image de Notre Dame des Hermites. Il a touché l'image miraculeuse.* This abbey is very rich, and has considerable revenues in the canton of Zurich. The abbot, who is titular prince of the German empire, is elected by sixty Benedictines, that form the chapter.

As I walked to this celebrated convent, I found the whole way furnished with stalls provided with cakes, whey, and other refreshments for the numerous pilgrims then on their road. I saw several hundreds, in groups of different numbers. Some consisted of a whole parish, attended by their spiritual pastor. More than once, I observed some grievous sinner driven from the flock, and walking at a distance counting his beads, bare-footed and bare-headed, doing full penance for his crimes. I also saw several bevvies of merry
damfels,

damfels, who seemed to enjoy the pilgrimage as much as Welsh lasses relish a wake. They often turned into the little chapels which lay open on the way, and wantonly sprinkled each other with holy water. This day's journey reminded me of Chaucer's Tales, in which he exactly describes this pilgrimage, in his account of that to the shrine of St. Thomas of Canterbury.

*From every place the pious rambles stray,
But most to good Einsidlin bend their way;
There, at the martyr's shrine, a cure they find
For each sick body, and each love-sick mind.*

Rapperfchwyl, August 2.

THE evening, yesterday, being fine and cool, I walked from Einsidlin to this place. After we had ascended about three miles, a view of the lake of Zurich, and of the adjacent country, opened upon us at once. The prospect was extensive and beautiful: the solemn stillness of the evening, the calmness of the lake, and the tints of the setting sun, which glowed around the horizon, very much improved its charms. When we arrived at the lake, the moon began to rise; and throwing its beams across the water, formed another scene, more mild indeed, but not less affecting. We then crossed the bridge of Rapperfchwyl, built over the narrowest part of the lake: it measured near 1700 paces. The town is pleasantly situated upon a neck of land or promontory. It formerly threw itself under the protection of Uri, Schweiz, Underwalden, and Glarus, with a reserve of all its privileges: but these cantons shamefully oppressing the inhabitants, and encroaching

encroaching upon their liberties; Zuric and Berne took possession of the town in 1712, and restored its antient immunities. From that period Rapperschwyl has continued under the protection of Zuric, Berne, and Glarus; the latter having preserved its right by its neutrality. By this treaty the town having recovered its former prerogatives, the inhabitants, in testimony of their gratitude, placed the following inscription over the gates: *Amicis Tutoribus floret libertas.*

THIS small republic is governed by a great and little council, consisting of forty-eight members. The town contains two hundred burghers, and about a thousand inhabitants, all Catholics. Its territory is about a league in circumference, and comprehends three parishes.

Yours, &c.

L E T T E R 8.

TOWN AND CANTON OF ZURIC.

Zuric, August 3.

YESTERDAY we dined luxuriously with the Capuchin friars at Rapperschwyl, who seldom treat their guests in so sumptuous a manner. It was one of their great feast-days; and they regaled us with every variety of fish, with which the lake and the neighbouring rivers abound. The convent stands upon the edge of the water, and commands an agreeable prospect: the library is by far the pleasantest apartment, though not the most frequented. The cells of the monks are small, and yet not inconvenient; but cleanliness does not seem to constitute any part of their moral or religious observances. Indeed the very habit of the order is ill calculated for that purpose, as they wear no shirt or stockings, and are clothed in a coarse kind of brown drugget robe, which trails upon the ground. Strange idea of sanctity! as if dirt could be acceptable to the Deity. I reflected with particular satisfaction, that I was not born a member of the Roman Catholic church; as perhaps the commands of a parent, a sudden disappointment, or a momentary fit of enthusiasm, might have sent me to a convent of Capuchins, and have wedded me to dirt and superstition for life.

AFTER dinner we took leave of our hosts, and departed for Zuric by water: the lake is near ten leagues in length,
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and one in breadth. This body of water is of an oblong form, and not near so large as that of Constance; but the borders are studded more thickly with villages and towns. The adjacent country is finely cultivated and well peopled; and the southern part of the lake appears bounded with the high stupendous mountains of Schweitz and Glarus: the scenery is picturesque, lively, and diversified.

ZURIC was formerly an imperial city, and obtained from the emperor Frederic II. very considerable privileges; which were acknowledged and augmented by several of his successors. The civil war between the magistrates and the people, in 1335, nearly reduced the city to ruins; but the magistrates being banished, the citizens, in 1337, established a new form of government, which was confirmed by the emperor Louis of Bavaria. The exiles, after several fruitless attempts, were at length re-admitted; but, engaging in a conspiracy against the citizens, were discovered and put to death. In consequence of this transaction, the nobles in the neighbourhood took up arms; and Zurich, after having ineffectually applied for assistance to the emperor Charles IV. formed an alliance with Lucerne, Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden, and was admitted a member of their confederacy. This event happened in the year 1351. The four cantons yielded the pre-eminence to Zurich: a privilege it enjoys at present; being the first canton in rank, and the most considerable in extent both of territory and power next to Berne. In the same year Zurich was assisted by the four cantons against Albert duke of Austria, who besieged the town, and was repulsed with great loss.

ZURIC was the first town in Switzerland, that separated from the church of Rome ; being converted by the arguments of Zuingle. Of all the reformers (the mild and elegant Melancthon alone excepted) Zuingle seems to merit peculiar esteem : he possessed, to a great degree, that spirit of meekness, moderation, and charity, which are the characteristics of true Christianity ; and, amid all the disputes between the Lutherans and the reformed churches, was a constant advocate for peace and reconciliation. He appears to have been as perfectly free, as well from that narrow bigotry which makes no distinction between points of the merest indifference, and objects of the greatest importance ; as from that overbearing pride, which, while it violently condemns the opinions of others, assumes to itself infallibility with respect to its own. In a word, it was his persuasion, that, provided Christians agree in the most essential articles ; they ought meekly to bear with any difference upon subjects less uncontrovertible, and which do not necessarily influence morals.

ULRIC Zuingle was born Jan. 1, 1484, at Wildhausen, a small village in the Tockenburgh ; and, in the twentieth year of his age, was appointed minister of Glarus. Even before the publication of the sale of indulgences by Leo X. which was the more immediate cause of the reformation, Zuingle had exposed at Glarus several superstitions of the church of Rome ; and had gained additional credit, by preaching at Einsidlin against vows, pilgrimages, and offerings. After the publication of the sale of indulgences ; while Luther was undermining the fabric of papal authority in Germany, Zuingle was no less successful in Switzerland. By his zeal
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and intrepidity, and by the irresistible force of truth, he gained so many converts at Zurich (where he had been invited to preach) that in 1524 the magistrates abolished the mass, and other Catholic ceremonies, and introduced the reformed religion. Zuingli had taken such wise precautions, and acted with such extreme moderation, that the disputes between the two sects were carried on with more temper than is usual in religious controversies. The change, which had been some time in agitation, was finally determined by a plurality of voices in the sovereign council; and the people readily and cheerfully obeyed the decision of their magistrates. The example of Zurich was soon followed by Berne, Schaffhausen, Basle, with part of Glarus and Appenzel; the other cantons continuing to adhere to the religion of their ancestors. From this period the two persuasions have been established in Switzerland; but that harmony, which had hitherto subsisted between the cantons, has been occasionally interrupted. In 1531, religious disputes broke out with so much violence, as to occasion a civil war; in which the Protestants were defeated, and Zuingli lost his life, in the forty-eighth year of his age, at the battle of Cappel*. Since that period two other religious wars have been kindled; one in 1656, in which the Catholics gained the advantage; and the other in 1712, when the Protestants proved victorious. The peace of Arau, which terminated these unhappy disputes,

* It has been urged against Zuingli, as a proof of his persecuting principles, that he was personally engaged in this war against the Catholics. To this it may be answered, That he had used every argument in his power to reconcile the contending parties; that he even openly arraigned the impatient and turbulent zeal of his fellow-citizens; that he acted in obedience to one of the fundamental laws of the republic; and that he accompanied the army by the express command of the magistrates.

has,

has, it is to be hoped, finally composed all religious animosities. By that treaty, which may be considered as a code of toleration among the Swiss; the treatment of the Protestants and Catholics in the common bailliages, is regulated. The first article stipulates, that in all the provinces, which are subject to cantons of different religion, there shall be a perfect equality between the two sects, and that they shall both enjoy the same privileges: to which is added an express prohibition to each party, not to use any terms of raillery or contempt, in speaking of their respective modes of worship.

THE canton of Zurich abounds in corn, wine, and excellent pasture. The proportion of grain to the other productions of the earth, will appear from the following calculation. There are 217,424 * acres tilled, 14,466 in vines, 94,553 in meadows, 42,549 in pasturage, and 103,772 in forest.

As sufficient corn is not produced for the interior consumption, the deficiency is chiefly supplied from Suabia. In order to prevent a scarcity of this material article, a public granary is maintained at the expence of government. The grain is retailed at the common price; but, in seasons of scarcity, is sold considerably cheaper than it can be purchased at the market. The good effects of this establishment appeared at the dearth in 1771; when, on account of the dearth of corn, a pound of bread was sold for ten pence, the same quantity was delivered by government for four pence.

* Of 36,000. square feet each.

THE wine made in the canton forms an inconsiderable object of foreign commerce; the greatest part being consumed in the country. In 1779 were exported 10,029 casks, each containing 180 bottles; in 1781, 24,568, and in 1782, 11,354.

THE canton contained, in 1784, 174,572 souls, including 10,500 in the capital. This large population, in proportion to the size of the canton, is owing to the trade of Zurich; as at least two thirds of the inhabitants derive their livelihood by spinning thread and silk, and making linen for the manufactures of the town.

THE sovereign power resides exclusively in the burghesses of the town, consisting of about two thousand. Here I cannot but remark, that a very narrow spirit of policy reigns throughout most of the states in Switzerland; as they seldom confer the burghership. This rule, however, in some of the republics is less scrupulously observed than in others. But in Zurich a new citizen has not been admitted during these last hundred and fifty years.

It is curious to trace the restrictions which have been gradually laid on granting the burghership. On the 26th of May, 1540, the Sovereign Council issued a decree, importing, that whosoever was desirous of becoming a citizen, should be obliged to produce a certificate of good behaviour, properly witnessed and signed, and bearing the seal of the magistrates of the place in which he formerly resided; and should, before he was enrolled among the burghers, pay ten florins,

florins, near £. 1, if a native of Switzerland, and double that sum if a stranger. An inhabitant of the town or canton was taxed only at three florins for his admission; and all artists and persons of learning, necessary or useful to the state, were to be received gratis. In 1549, it was enacted, that the burghership should be refused to all who were not possessed of considerable riches, or who did not introduce new arts and trades. This decree was repeatedly confirmed; and, in 1593, it was added, that a new citizen should not be entitled to a share in the government but on the following conditions. If an inhabitant of the canton, he must have resided in the town during ten years; if a native of Switzerland, twenty; if a foreigner, forty; and that he must build or purchase a house within the walls of Zurich: this last article was repealed in 1612. In 1597, the reception of new citizens was delayed for the first time, but only for two years; and in 1610, the admission-money was augmented. In the commencement of the 17th century, government refused to receive into the Sovereign Council the noble families of Orel, Pefsaluzz, and Muralt; which, in 1555 and 1557, had quitted Italy and settled at Zurich: these families, partly on account of having embraced the reformed religion, and partly as persons of capacity and industry, had been received into the burghership, but rendered incapable of enjoying a share in the administration of affairs. This exclusion, again confirmed in 1592, was revoked in 1673, in favour only of the family of Muralt, which exception was obtained by considerable largesses. In 1674, the family of Orel offered to disburse ten thousand florins towards the expence of repairing the fortifications, on condition of being rendered capable of election into the
Sovereign

Sovereign Council: their petition was then refused, but generously granted in 1679, without the smallest equivalent. Finally, on the 7th of January, 1661, the Council determined to make no more burghers; which resolution has been invariably followed.

THE burghers, beside the advantage of electing their magistrates, and of aspiring to the administration of affairs, enjoy the sole right of commerce; all strangers, and even subjects, being excluded from establishing manufactures in the city, or in any part of the canton.

THE burghers of Zurich, are divided into thirteen tribes; one of which is called *Constaffel*, or the tribe of nobles, although at present not absolutely confined to persons of that description: it enjoys the privilege of giving eighteen members to the Sovereign Council, and six to the Senate, whereas each of the other tribes only supply twelve to the former, and six to the latter.

THE legislative authority is vested by the burghers, in the Sovereign Council of two hundred; consisting, however, of two hundred and twelve members drawn from the thirteen tribes, and comprising the Senate or Little Council. This * Senate, composed of fifty members, including the two burgomasters, has jurisdiction in all causes civil and criminal: in civil cases, when the demand is of a certain importance, an

* Formerly the Senate was separated into two equal divisions, which alternately administered the office during six months; and although these divisions still continue, yet, for some time past, they have re-united and acted together.

appeal lies to the Council of two hundred; but in criminal affairs, their sentence is final, and, when once passed, there is no possibility of obtaining any reversal or mitigation. An excellent maxim! provided the judges are cautious and circumspect, and the laws mild: for there is no greater encouragement to the commission of crimes, than the frequency of pardons. Such an institution, however, ought necessarily to exclude severity of punishment; and could never be admitted in a state, where by the letter of the law the same punishment is inflicted upon a sheep-stealer as upon a parricide.

It is to be regretted, that in this republic, as in most other states of Switzerland, there is no precise code of criminal law. The Caroline, or code of Charles V. is ostensibly followed; but on account of its obsolete usages and extreme severity, the sentence is ultimately left to the discretion of the magistrates. For notwithstanding the most perfect integrity, and upright intentions, yet it is hardly possible to suppose, that party, friendship, connections, and family, should not frequently influence the judges and occasion partial proceedings. It would perhaps well become the wisdom of this enlightened and equitable government, to form a penal code, and to ascertain, with precision, the punishment for each offence. The example of such a republic would in time be followed by the remaining cantons and states of Switzerland; and posterity would bless the name of Zurich for having occasioned the introduction of more settled principles in the criminal courts of justice. Some late decisions have rendered this arrangement more obviously necessary. Several persons disordered in their understandings committed suicide; and, although

although the circumstances of the crime were nearly similar, yet the most opposite sentences were pronounced on these occasions: so that the families of those, to whom a greater degree of severity was shewn, were necessarily more distressed on account of the mildness manifested to the others. Every judge of delicacy and honour would undoubtedly experience great satisfaction, to find himself restrained by precise laws from listening to solicitations from friends and party, and from being biassed by those feelings, of which it is almost impossible to be divested.

THE power of the Senate, considered in a collective capacity, is very considerable: it judges finally in all criminal causes, has the care of the police, and supplies the principal magistrates. But, as too great a power of individuals is dangerous in a republic; the members of this assembly are liable to be changed: and a revision or confirmation is annually made, in some instances by the Sovereign Council, in others by the particular tribes to which the senators belong. This annual revision is a great check to mal-administration; and at the same time prevents the Senate from gaining so great an influence, as to be detrimental to the liberties of the people. A burgher is qualified to vote at twenty; is eligible into the Sovereign Council at thirty; and into the Senate at thirty-five. By these wise regulations, a man must have formed some experience in public affairs, before he is capable of holding an important charge. The revenues of government, though not exceeding £. 65,000 *per ann.* are more than proportionate to the expences; which are regulated with the strictest œconomy. The state is not only without debts, but

an annual saving is deposited in the public treasury, for a resort upon any sudden emergency. From this fund government supported the whole expence of the war, in 1712, against the Catholic cantons, without imposing any additional tax.

THE canton of Zurich is divided into districts or bailliages, which are governed by bailifs nominated by the Sovereign Council. These bailifs, excepting those of Kyburgh and Groningen, cannot pass capital sentence, or order torture. They can arrest and interrogate the delinquent, and punish small misdemeanors by whipping, or banishment from the bailliage. In capital cases, they examine, make out the verbal process, and send the felon to Zurich for further trial. On inquiring into the state of criminal jurisprudence, I learned with satisfaction, that the question had not been inflicted in the capital for these last nine years, which may be presumed to be a prelude to its total abolition; but it is much to be regretted, that whipping, which is a species of torture, is not unfrequently applied, in order to force confession, both in Zurich and in the bailliages; an abuse of justice repugnant to the wisdom of so enlightened a government.

THE city of Zurich stands at the northern extremity of the lake, and occupies both sides of the rapid and transparent Limmat. Its environs are extremely delightful; an amphitheatre of hills gradually sloping to the borders of the water, enriched with pasture and vines; dotted with innumerable villas, cottages, and hamlets; and backed on the west by the Utliberg, a bold and gloomy ridge stretching towards the
Albis,

Albis, and that chain of mountains which rises gradually to the Alps.

THE town is divided into two parts; the old part, surrounded with the same antient battlements and towers which existed in the thirteenth century, and the suburbs, which are strengthened by fortifications in the modern style, but too extensive. The ditches, instead of being full of stagnant water, are mostly supplied with running streams. The public walk is pleasantly situated in a lawn, at the junction of the Limmat and the Sil, an impetuous and turbid torrent, which descends from the mountains of Einsiedlin: two rows of lime-trees planted by the side of the Limmat, and following its serpentine direction, afford an agreeable shade in the heat of summer. The inhabitants are very industrious; and carry on with success several manufactures: the principal are those of linens and cottons, muslins, and silk-handkerchiefs. The manufacturers do not in general dwell within the walls; but the materials are mostly prepared, and the work is completed in the adjacent districts. For this reason Zurich does not exhibit the activity and numbers of a great commercial city. The environs, on the contrary, are so extremely populous, that perhaps few districts in the neighbourhood of a town, whose population scarcely exceeds ten thousand inhabitants, contain within so small a compass so many souls. The streets are mostly narrow; the houses and public buildings accord more with plainness and convenience, than with the elegance and splendour of a capital.

THE town contained in 1780, 10,559 souls, in the following proportions; 2583 male burghers, 3464 female burghers: 860 foreign

foreign clerks, 250 foreigners; 372 male inhabitants, 444 female inhabitants; 223 men-servants, 1734 maid-servants; and 629 patients in the hospital. The gradual decrease of the population in the town, which arises from the difficulty of obtaining the burghership, will appear from the following table.

1357.	1756.	1762.	1769.	1780.
12,375	11,012	10,616	10,574	10,559

THE increase of luxury and opulence will appear from considering, that in 1357, the number of men-servants amounted to only 84, and of maid-servants to 263; whereas in 1780, the former were 223, and the latter 1734; or near a fifth of the whole population.

THE manners of the inhabitants are in general simple, and may perhaps in these times be esteemed antiquated. Dinner is usually served at twelve: in the afternoon the gentlemen assemble in clubs or small societies, in the town during winter, and at their respective villas in summer. They frequently smoke, and partake of wine, fruit, cakes, and other refreshments. The women, for the most part employed in their domestic occupations, or devoted to the improvement of their children, are not fond of visiting. When they go out, they generally assemble in separate coteries, to which only a few men, and those chiefly the nearest

nearest relations, are admitted: many of the ladies indeed, from a consciousness of their provincial accent, and a difficulty of expressing themselves in French, seldom make their appearance when strangers are received. It has more than once happened to me, that on being shewn into the apartment wherein the ladies were assembled, the master of the house has taken me by the hand, and led me into another room, where he would have detained me, if I had not requested to be reconducted to the ladies. This reserve, however, among the ladies begins greatly to abate, and to give place to a more sociable intercourse. Such, however, is the prevalence of national habit, that a few families, which form a more agreeable mixture of company, are considered as differing from the established customs, and are still known by the name of the *French Society*.

SUMPTUARY laws, as well as those against immorality, are here well enforced. The former indeed may exist, and be carried into execution even among a people much corrupted; for it may be the policy of government to enforce their observance. But the severest penalties will not be sufficient to prevent crimes of an immoral tendency, amidst a general dissoluteness of manners: the popular principles can alone invigorate such laws, and give to them their full operation. Secret crimes cannot be prevented; but it is an evident proof of public virtue, when open breaches of morality are discountenanced. Among their sumptuary laws, the use of a carriage in the town is prohibited to all sorts of persons except strangers: and it is almost inconceivable that, in a place so commercial and wealthy, luxury should so little prevail.

AT

AT Zurich the original Swiss spirit of independence prevails more than in any of the large towns in this country. The magistrates, less influenced by foreign courts, and above corruption, generally consult the real advantage of their canton, and of the Helvetic confederacy. Zurich still preserves in the general diet a very considerable sway; which she derives more from the opinion entertained of her integrity, than from her power: she is looked up to as one of the most independent and upright of the thirteen cantons.

THE militia of the canton amounted, in 1781, to 25,718 infantry, 1025 artillery, 886 dragoons, and 406 chaffeurs; in all 28,235 effective men. There is a military chest at Zurich, established in 1683, and supported by the members of the great council, who, instead of giving an expensive entertainment, are bound on their election or farther promotion to pay a certain sum. From this fund, which has been considerably augmented, £. 2000 was taken, in 1770, for the purpose of establishing a magazine of uniforms and arms, which are either distributed, or sold at a low price to the poor peasants who cannot afford to purchase them at their full value; each peasant, according to the military laws of the canton, being obliged to be provided with arms and an uniform.

THE arsenal is well supplied with cannon, arms, and ammunition; and contains a reserve of muskets for thirty thousand men. We saw there, and admired, the two-handed swords and weighty armour of the old Swiss warriors; and the bow and arrow with which William Tell is said to have shot the apple placed on the head of his son. This canton
has

has a regiment and some companies in the service of France, a regiment in that of Holland, and some companies in the service of the king of Sardinia. The king of France pays annually for a regiment of fusiliers, consisting of 1292 men, £. 20,348. The colonel receives about £. 840 *per ann.* a captain £. 360: and a common foldier £. 7. The pay of a regiment of twelve companies, in the Dutch service, is £. 25,377.

L E T T E R 9.

ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS—STATE OF LITERATURE
—LEARNED MEN OF ZURIC—SOCIETY OF PHYSICS
—SEMINARIES—LIBRARIES.

IN ecclesiastical affairs the Senate is supreme: the canton is divided into fourteen districts, each governed by a dean, chosen by the synod, from three candidates proposed by the clergy of the diocese. The synod, composed of the whole clergy, and several assessors on the part of the Little Council, meets twice a year. In the last century it had a more democratical form, and exercised jurisdiction over its members: it examined causes between ecclesiastics, and between the ministers and their parishioners; gave decisions; enjoyed the power of imprisoning, deposing, and reinstating the ministers; and exercised an authority dangerous to the state. By degrees their exorbitant prerogatives were annulled; and, in 1700, the clergy of Zurich succeeded in the establishment of a more aristocratical form.

THE principal ministers and professors in the town constitute, in conjunction with several magistrates and other assessors deputed by the civil power, an ecclesiastical and academical council: to this committee the deans have recourse, in all concerns which seem to exceed their jurisdiction: it determines lesser affairs, and refers cases of importance

tance to the Senate. The fourteen deans assemble twice a year in Zurich, and compose a *prosynode*; in which they depute one of their own body to deliver their requisitions, or *pia desideria*, first to the Ecclesiastical Council, and afterwards to the General Synod. The Ecclesiastical Council takes their requests into deliberation, lays them before the Synod, and if recommended, they are presented by the assessors to the final decision of the Senate.

THE ecclesiastical benefices in this canton are extremely moderate. The best living may be worth £. 140 *per ann.* and the worst about £. 30. The salary of the canonries in the capital amount to £. 120. But in general, a clergyman of the town, who has merit, is certain of obtaining a professorship, which adds £. 50 or £. 60 *per ann.* to his other appointments.

THE charitable establishments at Zurich, are the orphan-house, which is regulated with great attention and care; an alms-house for poor burghers; an hospital for incurables, and that for the sick of all nations, which usually contains between six or seven hundred patients; and the *Allmosen-Amt*, or foundation for the poor: this excellent institution puts out children as apprentices; and distributes money, clothes, and books of devotion to poor persons, as well in the town as in different parts of the canton, at the recommendation of the respective ministers. In 1697 it distributed £. 300; in 1760, £. 5010; in 1770, £. 4796; and in 1778, £. 5451.

AMONG the particular institutions must not be omitted the chirurgical feminary : it is formed by voluntary subscriptions, and chiefly supported by Dr. Rhan, an eminent phyfician, who reads lectures gratis, and gives the profits of a publication, called the *Magazine of Health*, towards maintaining this feminary, for the instruction of young phyficians and furgeons, deftined to fettle in the country.

AT Zurich public education is a ftate concern, and under the immediate protection of government. The office of a profeffor gives rank and eftimation, and is often held by a member of the Senate and of the Great Council. The principal literary eftablifhments for the instruction of youth are, the Caroline College for ftudents in divinity; *Collegium Humanitatis*, or the college for polite literature; and the fchool of arts: the firft has twelve profeffors, the fecond two, and the laft feven. The learned languages, divinity, natural hiftory, mathematics, and in fhort every fpecies of polite learning, as well as abftrufe fcience, is taught at a fmall expence in thefe refpective feminaries.

IN confequence of the unremitted attention which, fince the reformation, government has paid to the education of youth, many eminent perfons have flourifhed in all branches of literature; and there is no town in Switzerland, where letters are more encouraged, or where they have been cultivated with greater fuccefs. A learned profeffor of Zurich has, in a very interefting publication, difplayed the important fervices which erudition and fcience have derived from the labours of his countrymen. In thefe biographical
memoirs

memoirs appear, among many others, the names of Zuingle and Bullinger, Conrad Gefner, Hottinger, Simler, Spon, Scheutzer, Heydegger, Breitinger, Bodmer, Hertzell, and Solomon Gefner.

OF all the luminaries which Zurich, fertile in great geniuses, has ever produced, Conrad Gefner perhaps occupies the first place. He was born at Zurich in 1516, and died in 1564, in the 48th year of his age. Those who are conversant with the works of this great scholar and naturalist, cannot repress their wonder and admiration at the amplitude of his knowledge in every species of erudition, and the variety of his discoveries in natural history, which was his peculiar delight. Their wonder and admiration is still further augmented, when they consider the gross ignorance of the age which he helped to enlighten, and the scanty succours he possessed to aid him in thus extending the bounds of knowledge; that he composed his works, and made those discoveries which would have done honour to the most enlightened period, under the complicated evils of poverty, sickness, and domestic uneasiness. A detail of his life and writings, by an author capable of appreciating his multifarious knowledge, would be a just tribute to the merits of this prodigy of learning (*Monstrum Eruditionis*) as he is emphatically styled by Boerhaave.

BODMER, born in 1698, was alive in 1776, when I first visited Switzerland; but I was at that time ignorant of the German language, and unacquainted with his great merits in reforming the taste of his contemporaries, and familiarizing them

them to the sublime beauties of Homer and Milton. He died in 1783. I now regret that I did not cultivate the acquaintance of a man, whom the unanimous voice of his contemporaries deservedly styles the Father of German literature; whose just criticisms and correct judgment animated the poetical genius of Clopftock, Haller, and Gefner.

I DID not, however, omit waiting upon Solomon Gefner, the celebrated author of the Death of Abel, and of several idyls, juſtly eſteemed for their delicate and elegant ſimplicity. They abound with thoſe nice touches of exquisite ſenſibility, which diſcover a mind warmed with the fineſt ſentiments; and love is repreſented in the chaſteſt colouring of innocence, virtue, and benevolence. Nor has he confined his ſubjects merely to the paſſion of love: paternal affection, and filial reverence; gratitude, humanity, in ſhort every moral duty is exhibited and inculcated in the moſt pleaſing and affecting manner. He has for ſome time renounced poetry in order to aſſume the pencil; and painting is at preſent his favourite amuſement. A treatiſe which he has publiſhed on landſcapes, diſcovers the elegance of his taſte, and the verſatility of his genius; while his compositions in both kinds prove the reſemblance of the two arts; and that the conceptions of the poet and of the painter are congenial. His drawings in black and white are preferable to his paintings; for, although the ideas in both are equally beautiful or ſublime, the colouring is inferior to the deſign. He has publiſhed a handſome edition of his writings in quarto, in which every part of the work is carried on by himſelf: he prints them at his own preſs; and is at once both the drawer and engraver of
the

plates. It is to be lamented that he has renounced poetry; for, while ordinary writers spring up in great plenty; authors of real genius are rare and uncommon. His drawings are seen only by a few: but his writings are dispersed abroad, translated into every language, and will be admired by future ages, as long as there remains a relish for true pastoral simplicity, or taste for original composition. He is plain in his manners; open, affable, and obliging in his address; and of singular modesty. Gesner died of an apoplexy, March 2d, 1788.

I CALLED also on Mr. Lavater, a clergyman of Zurich, and celebrated physiognomist, who has published four large volumes in quarto on that fanciful subject. That particular passions have a certain effect upon particular features, is evident to the most common observer; and it may be conceived, that an habitual indulgence of these passions may possibly, in some cases, impress a distinguishing mark on the countenance: but that a certain cast of features constantly denotes certain passions; and that by contemplating the countenance, we can infallibly discover also the mental qualities, is an hypothesis liable to so many exceptions, as renders it impossible to establish a general and uniform system. Nevertheless Mr. Lavater, like a true enthusiast, carries his theory much farther: for he not only pretends to discover the characters and passions by the features, by the complexion, by the form of the head, and by the motion of the arms; but he also draws some inferences of the same kind even from the hand-writing. Indeed his system is founded upon such universal principles, that

that he applies the same rules to all animated nature, extending them not only to brutes, but even to insects. That the temper of a horse may be discovered by his countenance, will not perhaps strike you as absurd : but did you ever hear before, that any quality could be inferred from the physiognomy of a bee, an ant, or a cock-chaffer ? While I give my opinion thus freely concerning Mr. Lavater's notions, you will readily perceive that I am not one of those who are initiated into the mysteries of his art. Mr. Lavater has not merely confined himself to physiognomy. He has composed sacred hymns and national songs, which are much esteemed for their simplicity. He has also given to the public numerous works on sacred subjects. I am concerned to add, that the ingenious author extends to religion the same enthusiasm which he has employed in his researches on physiognomy, and in his poetical compositions : the warmth of his imagination hurries him on to adopt whatever is most fanciful and extraordinary ; to outstep the limits of sober reason ; to be an advocate for the efficacy of absolute faith ; for inward illuminations ; for supernatural visions ; and for the miraculous effects of what is called *animal magnetism* in the cure of disorders. The insinuating address of Mr. Lavater, the vivacity of his conversation, the amenity of his manners, together with the singularity and animation of his style, have contributed more to diffuse his system and principles, than sound arguments or deep learning, which are not to be found in his lively but desultory compositions.

AMONG the eminent men of Zurich, must not be omitted Dr. Hirtzel, a learned physician, who is deservedly styled the
Swiss

Swift Plutarch, and has, among various publications, more particularly distinguished himself by the *Socrate Rustique*, and by the lives of Sultzer and Heydegger.

LEONHARD Meister, professor of history and morality in the School of Arts, deserves to be mentioned among the learned men of Zurich. The versatility of his talents will be collected from a bare catalogue of his principal works: which are written in the German tongue.—On Fanaticism; the History of the German Language and Literature; Lives of the celebrated men of Zurich; Swifts Biography; the most memorable Events of the Helvetic History, in Chronological Order; Instances of Intolerance and Fanaticism in Switzerland; Public Law of Switzerland; History of the Town and Canton of Zurich; Panegyric on Bodmer; Excursions through various Parts of Switzerland; Character of the German Poets, in Chronological Order, with their Portraits; Abridgment of Antient History, particularly of the Greeks, with an Introduction on the Fine Arts and Polite Literature. In all his writings the judicious author has displayed great zeal for the promotion of learning, correctness of taste, liberality of sentiment, and much historical and biographical knowledge. But in his observations on fanaticism and intolerance, he has treated those subjects in a new light: he has illustrated their dreadful effects on government and civil society by historical events, and in a political view; he has appealed from theory to experience, and exemplified questionable arguments by unanswerable facts. In this instance he has been no less singularly useful in combating persecution, than in repressing that spirit of fanaticism that pre-

vailed among many of his countrymen, and which is diffused by men of lively abilities and popular manners.

THE curiosity of the naturalist will be amply gratified by a view of the library and cabinet of Mr. John Gefner, professor of physics, and canon of the cathedral, who inherits the zeal for natural history which characterised his great ancestor Conrad Gefner. His proficiency in the study of nature, and particularly his accurate skill in botany, has been abundantly testified by the repeated acknowledgments of Haller, whom he accompanied in his herborising excursions through the mountains of Switzerland, and who confesses himself indebted to Mr. Gefner for various observations and important discoveries. Mr. Gefner's cabinet is extremely rich in fossils, and remarkable for the drawings of the principal specimens in his museum; and for numerous representations of insects admirably painted by Schellenberg. But one of the most curious parts of his collection, is a great botanical work, which Haller calls *vastissimum et pulcherrimum opus*; and which, it is much to be regretted, he has hitherto withheld from the public. He has exhibited, in eighty tables, a thousand generical characters of plants, according to the Linnæan system, together with many of the specific characters. These tables, intended to illustrate a general history of plants, which, as appears by his own letters to Haller, the author meditated, were drawn and engraved by Geisler, the same person who distinguished himself by painting the shells of Regenfuss*.

* See Coxe's Travels into Poland, &c. Book viii. chap. iv.

AMIDST the various occupations of Gesner, botany, to which he had an early and strong attachment, has engaged a great share of his attention; besides two or three early productions in this line, he began, in the year 1759, to publish a work which he has extended to eight publications, in the quarto form. The first seven parts bear the title of *Phytographia Sacra Generalis*; the remaining that of *Phytographia Sacra Specialis*. In this work the author treats on philosophy, of vegetation in general, and on the circulation of the sap through the particular parts of plants; on the Linnæan system against the objections of Alston; on the uses of plants as food to man, and gives a detail of upwards of a hundred edible kinds, with a compendious account of the specific properties of each; on the medicinal uses of plants; on the various œconomical uses of vegetables, illustrating in a particular manner, among many others, those of the Palm-tree, Flax, and Aloes. In the latter volumes of this work, the author treats on other advantages derived to mankind from the vegetable world. He speaks, for instance, on the nature and constituent parts of turf and peat, and enumerates the species of bog and fen plants which enter into the composition of each; on the kinds of shrubs proper for hedges; on timber for building, and particularly such as were used for those purposes by the ancients. In the first part, which is all that is hitherto published, of what he names *Phytographia Sacra Specialis*, he has given an account of those authors who have written on the plants of the holy scriptures, and enters upon the history of each.

THE Society of Physics owes its origin to Messrs. Heydegger, Schultetz, and John Gesner, who first assembled

in 1745, and admitted others, in order to attend a course of lectures on natural history. This course was read by Mr. John Gefner, professor of physics, who so greatly excited the attention, and animated the zeal of his audience, that in a short space of time the members were increased to seventy. The first regular meeting was held in 1745, in a private house; and in a few years they deserved and received the protection of government, which granted the profits of a lottery towards establishing a fund. There are now about a hundred and twelve members: each pays on his admittance eight florins, or about seventeen shillings, and the same sum annually. Since 1757, a suite of apartments, in a house belonging to one of the tribes, has been assigned for holding their assemblies, and for containing their library and apparatus. The society is divided into five departments. 1. Physics. 2. Mathematics. 3. Natural history. 4. Medicine. 5. Application of physics to arts and trades. But the grand and principal object of this society, is the encouragement and improvement of practical agriculture. For this purpose the members correspond with the land-holders in different parts of the canton; visit various districts in rotation; summon to Zurich some of the best informed farmers; acquaint themselves with the state of husbandry; give them instructions; offer prizes for improvements in cultivation; furnish small sums of money to the poorer peasants: and communicate to the public the result of their inquiries and observations.

THE public library at Zurich contains about 25,000 volumes, and a few curious manuscripts. Among the manuscripts, the following principally attracted my attention.

1. The

1. The original manuscript of Quintilian, found in the library of St. Gallen, and from which the first edition of that great rhetorician was printed. 2. The psalms in the Greek tongue, written on parchment dyed of a violet colour. The letters are silver, excepting the initials, which are in golden characters, and the marginal references, which are red. It is similar to the celebrated *Codex Argenteus** in the library of Upsala. It is supposed to have once formed part of the *Codex Vaticanus*, preserved in the Vatican library at Rome: as both of these manuscripts are similar, and the Roman volume is deficient in the psalms. The learned Breitingger has published a dissertation on this codex†. 3. Several manuscripts of Zuingli, which prove the indefatigable industry of that celebrated reformer. Among these I particularly noticed his Latin Commentary on Genesis and Isaiah, and a copy of St. Paul's Epistles from the Greek Testament published by Erasmus. At the end is written an inscription in the Greek tongue, signifying, "Copied by Ulric Zuingli, 1415." It was presented to the public library by Ann Zuingli, the last survivor of his illustrious race. 4. Three Latin letters from Lady Jane Grey to Bullinger, in 1551, 1552, and 1553. These letters, written with her own hand, breathe a spirit of the most unaffected piety, and prove the extraordinary progress which this unfortunate and accomplished princess, though only in the sixteenth year of her age, had made in various branches of literature. The Greek and Hebrew quotations shew that she was well acquainted with

* See Travels into Poland, Russia, &c. Book vii. chap. vi.

† De Antiquissimo Turicensis Bibliothecæ Græco Psalmorum Libro Turici. 1748.

those languages. These letters, though given in several publications, yet are not printed with that accuracy, which the relics of such a personage deserve. This library is rich in the best editions of the classics; and particularly in the early impressions of the 15th century.

THE library of the cathedral belonging to the Caroline College contains several manuscripts of the reformers, Bullinger, Pelican, Bibliander, and Leon Juda; particularly the translation of the Talmud by Pelican and Bibliander, which has never been printed; also sixty volumes of letters from Zuingli and the early reformers, with a complete index. This collection, so interesting to ecclesiastical history, was formed by Henry Hottinger*, the learned author of the History of the Reformation, renowned for his extensive erudition, and particularly for his profound skill in oriental literature. The librarian pointed out an ancient manuscript of the Latin Vulgate, called *Codex Carolinus*, and supposed to have been a present from Charlemain; but without foundation, for it is certainly of much later date, probably of the eleventh century. Among the rare books is the Latin Bible, translated by Pelican, Bibliander, and Leon Juda, printed at Zurich in 1545.

THE lover of literary and ecclesiastical history will not fail to visit the Reverend Mr. Simler's ample collection of letters which passed between Zuingli and the other reformers of Zurich, and their correspondents in different parts of Europe.

* He was born in 1620; and was drowned in the Limmat, 1667.

The learned professor proposed to have printed by subscription, in two volumes in folio, the letters of the English reformers, several of which Burnet has published in his History of the Reformation, but with many errors. Not finding, however, sufficient subscribers for so expensive a publication, he was obliged to relinquish his plan, to the regret of all lovers of biography.

THE library of Mr. de Heydegger, senator of Zurich, deserves the notice of the learned traveller. The ingenious possessor inherited from his father only 3000 volumes, which he has extended to 15,000. His principal aim is directed to those books that were unknown to Maittaire, which might assist in correcting his typographical annals, and in forming an accurate and connected history of printing. In this collection are found many rare and elegant impressions by the Alduses, Juntas, Giolitos, Torzentino, Stephens, Elzivers, Comino, Tonson, Wetstein, Baskerville, Bodoni, Barbot, and Didot. It is particularly rich in the earliest impressions, of which there are no less than seven hundred that were printed in the fifteenth century. Among many rare books, I noted down the following: Ciceronis Officia. Fust et Sheiffer 1465. pet. in folio.—Jo. Sanuenfis Catholicon, folio. Aug. Vindel. Gunther, Zeiner et Reutlingen, 1469.—First edition of Petrarcha Venet. Vindel. de Spira, 1470. See Cat. de la Valliere, 1783. No. 3579.—First edition of Dante, C. Fulginei Neumeister, 1472. See la Valliere, No. 3558.—Boccacio Genealogia Deorum et liber de Montibus et Sylvis. Venet. Vindel. de Spira, 1472 and 1473. First edition.—De Claris Mulieribus. Ulma Sv. Zeiner, 1473. First edition, with
wooden

wooden cuts, very singular. See Catalogue de la Valliere, No. 3810 and 5609.—Boccacio Decamerone Venet. Gio. et Gregor. de Gregorii fratelli, 1492, folio, wooden cuts. The Decameron translated into German about 1475, folio.—Mamontreclus Beronæ p. Helian Helixæ, 1470, folio. This book was printed at Munster, in the canton of Lucerne, and is curious, because it is the first instance of typography in Switzerland.

LETTER 10.

EXPEDITION ALONG THE BORDERS OF THE LAKE
OF ZURIC—RYCHTERSCHWYL—ISLE OF UFNAU—
RAPPERSCHWYL—GRUNENGEN—USTAR—GREIF-
FENSEE—EXCURSION TO REGENSBURG, AND TO
THE SUMMIT OF THE LAGERBERG.

DURING my first tour through Switzerland, I passed too short a time at Zurich to have an opportunity of visiting its delightful environs, which, for the mild beauties of nature, the numerous population, and the well-being of the peasantry, is scarcely surpassed by any spot on the globe. Having, on subsequent occasions, resided longer at Zurich, I did not omit making several excursions into various parts of the canton; an account of which will form the subject of the present letter.

THE weather clearing up after several continued and heavy rains, on the 24th of June, 1785, I accompanied Mr. de Bonstet of Berne, Professor Meister, and some other gentlemen of Zurich, in a delightful tour round the lake. We had no need of guides, as the country was well known to my companions; and we had no incumbrance of baggage. Having made an early dinner, according to the custom of the place, we departed at mid-day; and walked about three miles, through vineyards and corn-fields, to Kuffnach, a small vil-

lage on the east side of the lake. Here we paid a visit to a gentleman, and were served with tea, slices of bread and butter, and cherries.

IN 1778, Kuffnach was considerably damaged by the rise of a small torrent, which poured down from the mountains, carried away twenty-five houses, and destroyed about sixty persons. This torrent, now only a little rill, swelled to such a degree, as to rise at least thirty feet above its usual level: an increase owing to the sudden melting of the snow on the neighbouring heights. Every assistance was instantly afforded to the wretched inhabitants, and a collection of £. 3000 was raised in one Sunday at the different churches of Zurich: an astonishing collection for a town which does not contain 11,000 souls.

I AM indebted to Professor Meister for the following observations on the population, industry, and productions of Kuffnach, and the neighbouring villages. Kuffnach contains about 1700 souls, and the neighbouring villages are no less peopled: this astonishing population in so small a compass is occasioned by the trade of the capital, which employs so many hands. The proportion between the produce of the soil and the profits derived from working for the manufactures, may be estimated from the following calculation: Five parishes and two villages, situated near the lakes of Zurich and Greiffen, contain 8498 souls; and comprehend only 6050 acres * of arable land, 698 of vines, and 3407 of pasture, or scarcely an

* The acre used in this letter contains from 32,600 to 36,000 square feet.

acre and a quarter for each person. Their subsistence is principally supplied by 2016 looms, by means of which they prepare silk and cotton for the merchants of Zurich. In these parts an acre is sold for £. 100 or £. 120; whereas the same quantity in the interior part of the canton is worth only £. 20 or £. 30.

IN sixteen parishes, situated on the borders of the lake, the number of inhabitants, in 1784, were 32,581. There were 271 marriages, 1135 births. The proportion of the marriages to the births, as 1000 to 4188; of the births to the deaths, as 1000 to 882; of the births to the living, as 1000 to 18,705; of the deaths to the living, as 2000 to 32,515; of the males to the females, as 1000 to 1097.

HAVING reposed ourselves about an hour at Kuffnach, we continued our walk through vineyards and corn-fields, sometimes on the sloping banks of the lake, sometimes on a small foot-path formed on terraces upon a level with the water; or along narrow roads that resemble gravel-walks winding through pleasure-grounds and parks in England. We enjoyed, during great part of the way, the most agreeable shade from large beech and oak, walnut and other fruit-trees, that overhang like weeping willows; many of which are planted almost horizontally, either stretching from the sides of the hill, or from the very edge of the water, their boughs dipping into the lake: the scattered cottages, the numerous villages, the picturesque villas placed on the banks of the lake, and several neat churches, added to the beauty of the ever-changing scenery.

HAVING walked about three miles further, we stopped at a peasant's house in Meile, who regaled us with our usual fare, milk and cherries, but would receive no recompense. Here we embarked and crossed the lake, enjoying a most agreeable view of each border studded with villas, churches, and villages, many of which look like large towns, as they were half concealed by the intervening trees. As we passed near a bold promontory, richly covered with wood, we observed the sun, which was hid under a cloud, gilding the distant town of Rapperschwyl, the hills towards Zurich silvered by a milder ray, and the gloomy but sublime mountains of Glarus boldly rising to the south.

WE landed at Weddenschweil, which is agreeably situated on the west side of the lake. It is the capital of a bailliage, that stretches to the limits of the cantons of Zug and Schwitz, and was formerly an independent lordship. In 1287 it was sold by Rhodolph of Weddenschweil to the knights of Jerusalem; and became a commandery until 1459, when Zurich purchased it from the master of that order for 20,000 florins. The inhabitants having revolted in 1466, and being compelled to submit, were deprived of several privileges, and particularly the criminal jurisdiction, which was transferred to the senate of Zurich. Notwithstanding the loss of these immunities, the mildness of government is sufficiently manifested, by the considerable increase of the population within this last century. The number of souls, which in 1678 consisted of only 4867, amounted in 1782 to 8188.

NEAR

NEAR Weddenschweil I observed a beautiful meadow, prettily skirted with wood, and fertilized by a lively stream, which tempted me to quit the road. I had scarcely proceeded fifty paces, before I saw a silver rill gushing from the crevice of a rock sprinkled with wood. As we were contemplating this pleasing landscape, we heard the noise of falling waters, and caught a glimpse of a torrent tumbling from an elevated rock, glistening through the dark foliage, and richly illuminated by the rays of the sun, which was concealed from our view. Having penetrated by the side of the torrent, we saw it bursting from the height, amid surrounding trees, fall about six feet upon a ridge, and then roll fifty feet in mid air, without touching the sides of the precipice. The effect was peculiarly striking. Nor could we sufficiently admire the amphitheatre of rock, the beeches suspended on its top and sides, the beams of the sun darting on the falling waters, and the noise of the torrent contrasting with the mild and tranquil beauties of the lake we had just quitted.

OUR walk to Richliswick, where we passed the night, was no less agreeable than that on the other side of the lake. The road ran sometimes through meadows, at a little distance from the lake, sometimes close to the water, under the shade of trees planted casually by the hand of nature, in the most capricious shapes: we scarcely advanced a hundred steps without passing a neat cottage, and meeting with peasants, who saluted us as we went along. Every spot of ground is cultivated in the highest perfection. At Richliswick, which like Weddenschweil contains many good houses of stone, plaistered and white-washed, ornamented with green window-shutters, and Venetian blinds, we found an inn with comfortable

fortable accommodations. This place is the passage of much merchandize; and is greatly resorted to by the pilgrims, in their way to Einsidlin.

EARLY the next morning we embarked, and sailed to the Isle of Ufnau. The weather was uncommonly fine, the lake was quite still, the reflection of the white houses quivered on the surface of the water; and the hollows of the distant mountains seemed to be filled with a transparent vapour, which induced me to cry out, in the language of poetry,

“ Pleasant the sun,
 “ When first on this delightful land he spreads
 “ His orient beams on herb, tree, fruit, and flower,
 “ Glist’ring with dew*.”

ABOUT a mile from Richliswick is a single house standing on a gentle acclivity, the walls of which divide the canton of Zurich from that of Schweitz, and at the same time set instant bounds to that industry and population which had hitherto attracted our wonder and delight.

IN about two hours we landed at Ufnau, a pleasant island, about an English mile in circumference, belonging to the abbey of Einsidlin. It has only a single house, inhabited by a peasant’s family, two barns, a kind of tower or summer-house, seated on the highest point, a chapel which is never used, and a church in which mass is said only twice in the year. Within is the tomb of St. Alderic, who built an her-

* Milton’s Paradise Lost.

mitage on the island, to which he retired. He died in 1473, and must have been highly revered for his supposed sanctity; as a Latin inscription informs us, that "he was fed with bread from heaven, and walked upon the surface of the waters." This island is sometimes called Hutten's island, in memory of that extraordinary person, who retired and died in this obscure spot.

HUTTEN, descended from an illustrious family, was born at Seckenberg in Franconia, and receiving an education suitable to his birth, prosecuted his studies with that impetuous zeal which was the leading mark of his character. He passed a life of almost unparalleled vicissitude; sometimes in the camp, signalized for personal courage; sometimes in universities, where he distinguished himself by various publications; sometimes in courts, received with respect, or driven away for insolence; and sometimes wandering over different parts of Europe in extreme indigence. Having, at an early period of his life, embraced the opinions of Luther, he drew both his pen and his sword in defence of the new doctrines; was so intemperate in his ardour, that he was frequently imprisoned; and alarmed even the daring spirit of Luther by his repeated outrages. Having rendered himself an object of terror to both Lutherans and Catholics, his overbearing temper in vain sought an asylum, until he found it in this sequestered island. He expired in 1523, in the 36th year of his age: a man as remarkable for his genius and learning, as for his turbulence and presumption.

THE island is agreeably broken into hill and dale; is extremely fertile in pasture; produces hemp, flax, a few vines,
and

and a small tufted wood, which overhangs the edge of the water. It is the only island in the lake of Zurich, except an uninhabited rock, which yields a small quantity of hay.

HAVING reembarked, we soon landed at Rapperschwyl, and continued ascending amid hanging enclosures of pasture and corn, commanding a fine view of the lake, hills, mountains, and alps. Having passed the little territory belonging to Rapperschwyl, we came into the canton of Zurich. On entering a neat cottage, to inquire the road, we saw a peasant teaching about thirty children to read and write. On expressing my surprise and satisfaction, I was informed that each village has a peasant schoolmaster, either entirely or partly paid by government; and that in this canton there is scarcely a child who is not instructed in reading and writing. A little further we entered another cottage, where the mistress of the house offered us milk and cherries, and placed upon the table nine or ten large silver spoons.

WE continued our walk through an enclosed, hilly, and well-wooded country, and arrived about mid-day at Grunengen, a small burgh, capital of the bailliage. After dinner we paid a visit to the bailif, who resides in the castle, which stands on an elevated rock, overlooking an extensive prospect; towards the south wild and romantic, towards the west rich and well cultivated, watered by a lively stream which flows from the lake of Pfeffikon. The bailif possesses considerable authority. He judges civil and criminal affairs, in the presence of certain jurymen and the under-bailif; but can pass sentence without their concurrence, as neither of them enjoys a vote. He can punish all crimes which

which are not capital; can order whipping, or even the torture to be inflicted, when the criminal is convicted, and will not confess: I was greatly shocked to find that this horrid expedient had been lately practised. Even in capital cases he can condemn to death, provided he summons eighty jurymen from the different districts to be present at the trial; but as this custom is attended with much expence, he usually remits the culprit to Zurich. In civil proceedings an appeal lies from his decision to the senate of Zurich. If the bailiff abuses his power, the senate readily listens to the complaints of the oppressed inhabitants, and would not fail to punish the unjust judge. An instance of this impartiality occurred in 1754, when the bailiff being proved guilty of extortions, though he was son-in-law to the burgomaster, was fined and banished from Switzerland. I learned this fact, on observing a vacant place in the series of coats of arms belonging to the several bailiffs, which are painted in the hall of the castle; the arms of the extortioner, which once filled this vacant place, had been erased by order of government.

FROM Grunengen we pursued our course through lanes, fields, and enclosures, along a most delightful country, abounding in vines, corn, pasture, and wood. As the setting sun gradually descended below the horizon, we frequently looked back upon the distant alps, whose lower parts were dusky and gloomy; and whose summits were

“ Arrayed with reflected purple and gold,

“ And colours dipt in heav’n.”

MILTON.

AT the close of the evening I arrived at Ustar; regretting that our day's journey was concluded, and not feeling in the least fatigued with a walk of eighteen miles, from Rapperschwyl to Ustar; so greatly had I been occupied and delighted with the beauties of this romantic country. Ustar is a large parish, containing 3000 souls; the wooden cottages are neat and commodious, resemble those in the canton of Appenzel, and are dispersed in the same manner over the hills and dales.

THE sun had scarcely risen before we quitted our beds, and walked to the castle of Ustar. It stands boldly on an elevated rock, planted to its very summit with vines, and commands a most extensive view, bounded by the Jura, the mountains of the Black Forest, and the chain of alps stretching from the canton of Appenzel to the confines of the Vallais. Below and around, the country resembled the most cultivated and enclosed parts of England; a small lively stream winded through an immense plain; while the lake of Greiffen appeared like a broad river, washing the bottom of the adjacent hills. This castle was formerly the residence of the counts of Ustar, who held it and the district as a fief from the counts of Ravenspurgh, and was at that time a strong fortress. On the extinction of that house, in the middle of the fourteenth century, it was transferred to the family of de Bonstet; and in 1552 was purchased by Zurich, and united to the bailliage of Greiffensee. M. de Bonstet, whom I have mentioned as one of our party, derived great satisfaction in tracing the antiquity and history of this seat, formerly possessed by his ancestors, and in observing the family arms painted

painted upon the glass windows. This castle is now a private gentleman's house, and belongs to Mr. Teyler of Wedenschweil.

FROM Ustar we crossed the fields, and arrived at the lake of Greiffen. We walked for some way upon the turf, along its borders, under the pendulous branches of oak, beech, and elms. This lake is of an oblong shape, about six miles long, and a mile broad. On one side the shores are flat, or gently rising; on the other, hills richly wooded. The dearth of cottages and inhabitants, in this delightful but solitary spot, formed a striking contrast with the numerous villages we had recently quitted; while the southern extremity of the lake seemed almost bounded by that magnificent chain of alps, which constantly engaged our attention.

HAVING embarked in a small boat, we passed the village of Greiffen, pleasingly situated on a small promontory embosomed in a wood, and landed at the northern extremity of the lake. Here I bathed, and walked on gently, ascending through fertile grounds, delightfully planted with oak, beech, and poplars, and innumerable fruit-trees. At a small village we stopped at the parsonage. You can scarcely form to yourself an adequate idea of the neatness and simplicity which reign in these parts. The clergyman's two daughters, about fifteen or sixteen years of age, politely brought milk and cherries for our refreshment. They were neatly dressed, like the peasant girls, in straw hats, their shift-sleeves tied, as is the custom of the country, above their elbows. From this retreat of innocence and simplicity we ascended about a mile,

then burst upon a charming view of Zurich, the lake, and environs; and, gently descending, arrived at Zurich, quite enchanted with this short expedition.

AN expedition to the summit of the Lagerberg was no less agreeable than the former excursion. I procured a guide and a horse; but the weather proving very fine, I gave the horse to my servant, and preferred walking across the corn-fields, meadows, and thickets. The fields were enlivened by the numerous persons employed in harvest. In these parts, as well as the neighbouring countries, I observed with pleasure, that the oxen, which are chiefly used for draught, are not yoked to the teams or ploughs, but harnessed like horses. This custom enables those animals to perform their labour with much more ease, and with greater effect. It has lately been introduced into some parts of England; and all unprejudiced farmers allow its superior advantage, as the yoke is extremely galling; and four oxen harnessed with collars will do as much work as six when yoked by the neck. A few miles from Zurich, I passed through the village of Affholteren, near the church, which is prettily situated in the middle of a large field; skirted the small lake of Kaften, at a little distance from the picturesque ruins of Old-Regensberg; and gently ascended to New-Regensberg, which stands on an elevation, at the foot of the Lagerberg.

THE counts of Regensberg were powerful barons during that period of anarchy and confusion which distinguished the 12th and 13th centuries. They were involved in constant wars, or rather desultory skirmishes, with the town of Zurich,

Zuric, until they were finally repulsed by Rhodolph of Habsburgh, then captain-general of the troops of Zuric. On the extinction of the counts of Regensberg, in the 14th century, their territory devolved to the House of Austria, and in 1409, became subject to Zuric.

THE present burgh is inhabited by about 200 persons: who enjoy considerable privileges. They have their burgo-master, and a council of six members, who form the civil court of justice, from whose decision an appeal lies directly to Zuric. The criminal jurisdiction belongs to the bailif, who resides in the castle. This building was formerly of great strength, and frequently defied the attacks of Zuric. The greatest part of the present edifice was constructed in the last century; the only remains of the antient fortress being some stone walls and a round tower, which commands a distant prospect. A well in the middle of the burgh, hollowed in the rock to the depth of 216 feet, which is now dry, furnished formerly water to the garrison, during the obstinate sieges it maintained before the invention of gunpowder. Near this well is a copious fountain, which is supplied from a spring that rises in the Lagerberg. The adjacent country is a most delightful intermixture of hill and dale. The rock on which Regensberg is built, and which terminates in an abrupt precipice, forms the eastern extremity of that vast chain of mountains known by the general name of Jura, the branches of which are distinguished by different appellations. The branch that rises from this point is called the *Lagerberg*, to the summit of which I mounted on horseback. I passed for some way through cultivated enclosures,

enclosures, and afterwards through forests of pine, fir, and beech, until I reached the highest point, on which stands a signal-house. From this point, which overlooks the whole country, I enjoyed one of the most extensive and uninterrupted prospects, and particularly the finest distant view of the Alps, which I had yet seen in Switzerland.

To the north, the eye expatiates freely over the wilds of the Black Forest; to the east, beyond the confines of Bavaria; towards the west, traces the branches of the Jura extending in multifarious directions; to the south, looks down upon the fertile and enclosed regions in the canton of Zurich, on the lake and its populous banks, and admires the vast expanse of country swelling from plains to acclivities, from acclivities to hills, from hills to mountains, and terminating in those stupendous alps,

“ Whose heads touch heaven.”

THIS wonderful and sublime prospect detained me insensibly till the close of evening, when I descended, through the gloomy forests of pine, fir, and beech, that clothe the sides of the Lagerberg; and, filled with those pleasing but melancholy reflections which the indescribable beauties of nature leave upon the mind, I rode slowly on, and did not arrive at Zurich till the gloom of night had overspread the horizon.

LETTER

L E T T E R II.

WINTERTHUR—CASTLE OF KYBURGH.

WINTERTHUR stands about twelve miles from Zurich; a town which, although situated in the canton, and under the protection of Zurich, yet retains its own laws, has its own magistrates, and is in a great measure independent. Winterthur was formerly governed by its own counts, who were probably a branch of the Kyburgh family, for both houses bore the same coat of arms. In the 14th century it was possessed by Hartman, count of Kyburgh, who first surrounded it with walls; and upon his death it devolved to his nephew Rhodolph of Habsburgh. Rhodolph, afterwards emperor, conferred upon the inhabitants considerable privileges, for assisting him in the war in which he was engaged with Ottocar, king of Bohemia. It continued subject to his descendants until 1424, when the inhabitants claimed the protection, and obtained the alliance, of Zurich. In 1467, the archduke Sigismund having sold his rights to Zurich, that canton succeeded to his prerogatives. A deputy from Zurich resides at Winterthur, but for no other purpose than for collecting the toll, half of which belongs to Zurich.

THE government of Winterthur is aristocratical. The supreme power, in all things not interfering with the claims of Zurich, resides in the Great and Little Council. These two tribunals

tribunals united are final judges in all criminal procedures, and pass sentence of death without appeal. The Little Council is invested with the general administration of affairs, and determines civil causes in the first resort. From their decision an appeal lies to the Great Council, and in all processes between a stranger and a burgher, to the senate of Zurich.

ALTHOUGH the town is considered as independent, and only under the protection of Zurich, yet that canton claims the right of restricting the inhabitants from manufacturing silk, and from establishing a printing-press, as interfering with the natives of Zurich. This restriction has occasioned, and still continues to excite, ill-will between the two towns, and has given rise to much litigation. And though Zurich did not prohibit the manufactures of silk, yet by forbidding the peasants of the canton from preparing and spinning the materials, this order amounted to a virtual prohibition. At present a similar dispute is in agitation concerning the establishment of a printing-press at Winterthur. The right will scarcely be controverted; but as the cause will be finally determined by Zurich, it remains a doubt whether that government will be sufficiently disinterested to decide in favour of Winterthur against its own burghers. In all other respects, excepting in these two articles of trade so profitable to Zurich, the commerce of Winterthur lies under no restraint. The principal manufactures are muslins, printed cottons, and cloth. Some vitriol-works are carried on with considerable success.

THE town is small, and its inhabitants amount to about two thousand; who are for the most part remarkably industrious. The schools in this petty state are well endowed and regulated. The public library contains a small collection of books, and a great number of Roman coins and medals, chiefly found at Ober-Winterthur; among the most rare I observed a Didius Julianus and a Pertinax. Ober-Winterthur, or Upper Winterthur, at present only a small village near the town, in the high road leading to Frauenfeld, is the site of the antient *Vitodurum*, a Roman station, and the most considerable place in this neighbourhood. No other remains of its former consequence subsist but the foundations of antient walls, and the numerous Roman coins and medals which have been discovered. The Roman road, which once traversed the marshes between Winterthur and Frauenfeld, is no longer visible, because it forms the foundation of the present high-road.

THE castle of Kyburgh, towering on the summit of an eminence which overlooks Winterthur and the adjacent district, is a picturesque object; and remarkable in the history of this country, during the times of confusion which preceded and followed the interregnum of the empire. In the beginning of the 12th century, the counts of Kyburgh possessed the counties of Kyburgh, Lentzburgh, and Baden; and their territories were further increased by the accession of Burgdorf and Thun, which fell to Ulric * in right of his wife Anne, sister of Berchtold V. duke

* Some authors assert that Werner, son of Ulric, was the husband of Anne. Great confusion reigned in the early history of the Counts of Kyburgh, until Fuesli cleared it up. See article Kyburgh in Fuesli's *Erdbeschreibung*.

of Zæringen, upon the demise of the latter without issue male. These domains devolved, in 1273, to Rhodolph count of Habsburgh, on the death of his uncle Hartman the elder, the last count of Kyburgh. This inheritance rendered Rhodolph one of the most powerful princes in these parts; and probably opened his way to the imperial throne. Before his decease, the emperor ceded to his son Rhodolph and his heirs the county of Kyburgh, and his other dominions in Switzerland; and, on the demise of his son, confirmed this grant to his grandson John, the same who assassinated his uncle, the emperor Albert*, and was called the Parricide.

UPON Albert's assassination, the sons of that emperor seized and kept possession of Kyburgh and the other hereditary domains in Switzerland, and transmitted them to their posterity. In 1414, the emperor Sigismund put under the ban of the empire Frederic duke of Austria, and granted for a sum of money the county of Kyburgh to Zurich. In 1442 it was restored to the House of Austria; but, in 1452, was finally ceded to Zurich by Sigismund, archduke of Austria, in order to liquidate a debt which he owed to the canton. From that time it has formed a bailliage in the canton of Zurich; but the title of Count of Kyburgh has been always retained by the House of Austria, and is still assumed by its present illustrious descendant Joseph the Second.

THE castle of Kyburgh, which stands in a romantic and wild situation, has been constructed at different periods. Part is antient, and not improbably the same as existed in the

* See Letter 14.

time of Rhodolph; although I could not discover a date anterior to 1424, the year in which it was granted to Zurich. In an apartment which was formerly a stable, I observed the portraits of all the bailifs who have resided in the castle from the time of its cession to Zurich. The bailif enjoys greater powers than are usually delegated by an aristocratical government. In criminal proceedings, he is only required to consult the jury of the district, though he is not bound by their opinion, and can inflict capital punishment without the necessity of referring the sentence to be confirmed by Zurich.

LETTER 12.

FRAUENFIELD—OF THE HELVETIC CONFEDERACY—DIETS.

FROM Winterthur I passed to Frauenfield, a small town, or rather village, the capital of Thurgau, containing scarcely a thousand inhabitants; and only remarkable as being the place where, since 1712, the deputies of the Swiss cantons assemble at the general diet.

THE Helvetic confederacy owes its origin to the treaty contracted in 1308, between Uri, Schwitz, and Unterwalden, at the memorable revolution of 1308*. The accession of Zurich, Berne, Lucerne, Zug, and Glarus, gave strength and solidity to this union, and a century and a half elapsed before a new member was admitted. At length, in 1501, Friburgh and Soleure being, after much difficulty, received into the league; upon that occasion the eight antient cantons entered into a covenant, called the *Convention of Stantz*, by which the articles of union and mutual protection were finally settled†. No change therein has been effected by the subsequent reception of the three other cantons, Basle, Schaffhausen, and Appenzel; they having subscribed to the same terms which Friburgh and Soleure had accepted. Without entering into a minute detail, I shall endeavour, in this

* See Letter 25.

† See Letter 26,

letter,

letter, to lay before you a short view of the Helvetic confederacy.

THE code of public law, if I may so express it, between the combined republics of Switzerland, is founded upon the treaty of * Sempach in 1393; upon the convention of Stantz; and upon the treaty of peace concluded in 1712, at Arau, between the Protestant and Catholic cantons. It appears from these several treaties, which include or enlarge those that preceded, that the Helvetic union is a perpetual *defensive* alliance between the thirteen independent contracting powers, to protect each other by their united forces against all foreign enemies. Accordingly, if any member of the union should be attacked, that particular canton has a right to demand succours from the † whole confederate body; and in case of war,

* This treaty, which regulates the articles of war, was contracted between the eight antient cantons, in conjunction with the republic of Soleure. It ordains, that no Swiss soldier shall quit his ranks in time of action, even although he should be dangerously wounded:

“ Nous entendons aussi que si quelqu’un
“ s’estoit blessé en quelque façon que ce
“ fust en combatant ou en assaillant, de
“ forte qu’il seroit inutile pour se deffendre;
“ il demeurera non obstant aussi avec les
“ autres, jusques à ce que la bataille soit ex-
“ pirée: et pour cela ne sera estimé fuyard
“ et ne l’en fâchera-t-on en sa personne ny
“ en son bien aucunement.”

† The respectable author of the *Account of Switzerland*, has fallen into a mistake in

his description of the Helvetic union; and his error has been adopted by the Abbè Mably, in his *Droit Public de l’Europe*; by the compilers of the *Encyclopédie*; and by several other writers of distinction.

After having given a description of the Helvetic union, he concludes the relation as follows:

“ So far are they (the thirteen cantons)
“ from making one body or one common-
“ wealth, that only the three old cantons
“ are directly allied with every one of the
“ other twelve. There is indeed such a
“ connection established between them, that,
“ in case any one canton were attacked,
“ all the other twelve would be obliged to
“ march to its succour; but it would be by
“ virtue of the relation, that two cantons
“ may

war, the several forces to be supplied by each canton are precisely specified. It appears, however, from the stipulations to which the five cantons agreed, that they do not, in every respect, enjoy equal prerogatives with the eight antient cantons. For, the latter reserved to themselves a right, if the question for declaring war against any foreign state should be *unanimously* carried in their assembly, to require the assistance of the five other cantons, without assigning the motive: whereas the five cantons cannot commence hostilities without the consent of the confederates; and if the enemy should be willing to enter into a negociation concerning the matter in dispute, it must be referred to the arbitration of the eight antient cantons. It is further stipulated, that if a rupture should ensue between the eight cantons, the five are to observe a strict neutrality.

THE next essential object of the league, is to preserve general peace and good order. It is therefore covenanted, that all public disputes shall be finally settled between the con-

“ may have a third, and not of any direct
 “ alliance subsisting between every one of
 “ them. As for example: of the eight old
 “ cantons, Lucerne has a right of calling
 “ but five to its succour, in case of attack;
 “ but then some of those five have a right of
 “ calling others, with whom they are allied,
 “ though Lucerne be not; so that at last all
 “ must march by virtue of particular alian-
 “ ces, and not of any general one amongst
 “ them all.”

The above-cited account of the Helvetic union, would better have suited the league of the eight cantons before the convention of Stantz; when the confederate

states were not so absolutely and directly united together as they are at present; and their alliance did not perhaps totally exclude every treaty of the same kind with other powers. It was only by the articles of that celebrated convention, and the alliance of the eight cantons with Friburgh and Soleure, that the union became absolutely fixed and general. It must be confessed, however, that several Swiss historians have given the same idea of the Helvetic union as that above-mentioned: and that even now, authors differ considerably upon some important articles of the league.

tending

tending parties in an amicable manner; and for this purpose particular judges and arbiters are appointed, who shall be empowered to compose the dissensions that may happen to arise. To this is added, a reciprocal guarantee of the forms of government established in the respective commonwealths: for, in order to prevent internal factions, and revolts in any of the allied cantons, it was agreed by the convention of Stantz, that, in case of rebellion, the magistracy of such canton should be assisted by the forces of the others. Accordingly, the history of Switzerland affords many instances of protection and assistance reciprocally given between the confederates, in defence and support of the respective governments.

No separate engagement, which any of the cantons may conclude, can be valid, if inconsistent with the fundamental articles of this general union: or in other words, the reciprocal contract between the members of the league, supercedes every other species of public obligation. With these exceptions, the several combined states are independent of each other: they may form alliances with any power, or reject the same, although all the others have acceded to it*; may grant auxiliary troops to foreign princes; may prohibit the money of the other cantons from being current within

* The five cantons which agreed not to conclude any treaty without the consent of the eight, are necessarily excluded from this power, together with those particular cantons, which have bound themselves by private treaties not to contract any foreign alliance, without the reciprocal consent of the others; as for instance, Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden, by the alliance at Brun-

nen in 1315. But this depends upon particular treaties, and has no relation to the general union. In fact, every canton is restrained by the general articles of the Helvetic union: but, conforming to those, no one republic is in any other instance controuled by the resolutions of the majority among the confederate cantons.

their

their own territories; may impose taxes; and, in short, perform every other act of absolute sovereignty.

THE public affairs of the Helvetic body and their allies are discussed and determined in the several diets: and these are, 1. General diets; or general assemblies of the thirteen cantons, and of their allies. 2. Particular diets; as those of the eight ancient cantons; those of the Protestant cantons, with the deputies of the Protestants of Glarus and Appenzel, of the towns of St. Gallen, Bienne, and Mulhausen, called the *evangelical conferences*; those of the Roman Catholic cantons, with the deputies of the Catholics of Glarus and Appenzel, of the abbot of St. Gallen, and of the republic of the Vallais, called the *golden alliance*: as also the diets of particular cantons, which, beside being members of the general confederacy, have distinct and separate treaties with each other.

THE ordinary meetings of the *general* diet are held once a year, and continue sitting one month; the extraordinary assemblies are summoned upon particular occasions. It is principally convened in order to deliberate upon the best measures for the security of the Helvetic body. The canton of Zurich appoints the time and place of meeting; and convenes the deputies by a circular letter. The deputy of Zurich also presides, unless the diet is held in the territory of any other canton; in that case, the deputy of that canton is president.

THIS diet formerly met at Baden; but since the conclusion of the civil war in 1712, between Zurich and Berne on
one

one side, and Lucerne, Uri, Schweitz, Underwalden, and Zug, on the other, (when the five latter renounced the coregency of Baden) it has been assembled at Frauenfeld in Thurgau. Each canton sends as many deputies as it thinks proper.

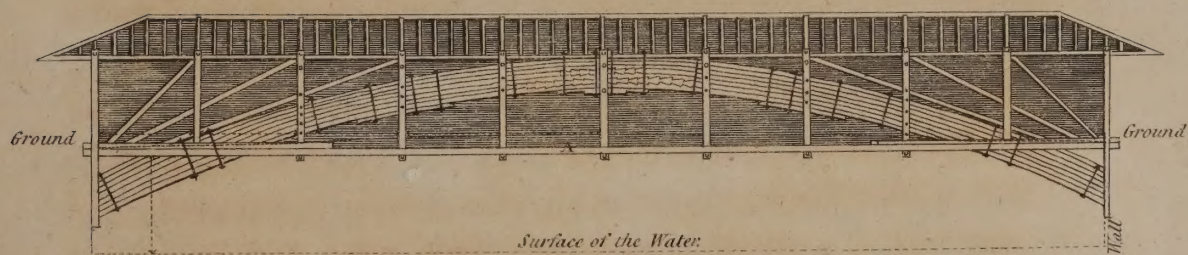
It would be descending into a tedious detail, were I to enter into the particular connections of the several allies, either with the whole Helvetic body, or with some of the cantons; and the different nature of these respective alliances. Suffer me only to remark, that the allies may be divided into *associate*, and *confederate* states: of the former, are the abbot and town of St. Gallen, Bienne, and Mulhausen; of the latter, are the Grisons, the republic of the Vallais, Geneva, Neuchatel, and the bishop of Basle. The states thus comprized under the general denomination of associates and confederates, enjoy, by virtue of this union, a total independence on all foreign dominion; and partake of all the privileges and immunities granted to the Swiss in other countries. And notwithstanding some of these states are allied only with particular cantons; yet if any of them should be attacked, those cantons with whom they are in treaty would not only supply them with succours, but would require the joint assistance of the remaining cantons: should therefore any part of the whole body be invaded, all the other members would unite in its defence, either as immediate guarantees, or as auxiliaries of the actual guarantees.

L E T T E R 13.

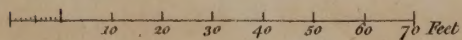
ROUTE BY WATER FROM ZURIC TO BADEN—
BRIDGE OF WETTINGEN—BADEN—CASTLE
OF HAPSBURGH.

INSTEAD of following the usual route by land from Zurich to Basle, we proceeded the greatest part of the way by water. We embarked about two in the afternoon on the Limmat. The navigation of that river has been described as extremely hazardous, yet it is only dangerous upon the melting of the snow, or after violent rains, when in several places the rocks and shoals are covered with water. At other times there is no danger, provided the watermen are sober and experienced. Our boat was flat-bottomed and long, and was rowed, or rather steered by three watermen, who used their oars merely to direct the vessel; the stream being sufficiently rapid to carry us along at the rate of six, eight, and sometimes even ten miles in the hour. The water is beautifully transparent; and its surface was occasionally raised and agitated with high waves by a wind opposite to the current. The borders of the Limmat are at first somewhat flat, afterwards gently rise into hills clothed with pasture and wood, or divided into vineyards; are lastly quite perpendicular, and fringed to the water's edge with hanging trees. About a mile from Baden, where the Limmat flows with the greatest rapidity, we shot under the bridge of Wettingen with such velocity, that in the moment of admiring its bold projection

*Geometrical Elevation of the Timber Bridge,
at Weltingen from actual measurements.*



*A. Floor of Bridge, raised 18 inches higher in the middle
and gradually diminishing towards each end as
shewn by the dotted lines.*



John Sme del.

Published as the Act directs Jan^y 26 1789, by T. Cadell, Strand.

J^o Mazell fecit

projection on one side, I imperceptibly found myself on the other. This beautiful piece of mechanism is a wooden bridge, two hundred and forty feet in length, and suspended above twenty feet from the surface of the water: it was the last work of Grubenman, the self-taught architect, whom I mentioned in a former letter, and is far superior in elegance to that of Schaffhausen.

WE landed at Baden, and walked to Hapsburgh, Schintznach, Königsfelden, and Windisch; of which places I shall give you a short description. Baden derives its name from the neighbouring warm baths, which are mentioned by the ancients under the appellations of *Aquæ* and *Thermæ Helveticæ*. Baden was a Roman fortress, erected to curb the *Allemanni* or Germans; and was raised to the ground, when the Helvetians, who supported Otho, were routed by Cæcina, general to Vitellius. Being rebuilt, it was taken by the Germans; fell afterwards under the dominion of the Franks; was, in the tenth century, incorporated in the German empire; became successively subject to the dukes of Zæringen, to the counts of Kyburgh, and to Rhodolph of Hapsburgh. In 1415, when his descendant Frederic, duke of Austria, was put under the ban of the empire, the canton of Zurich took possession of the town and county; and, having purchased them from the emperor Sigismund, admitted to a joint share in the sovereignty, Lucerne, Uri, Schwitz, Unterwalden, and Zug, Berne in 1426, and Uri in 1445.

BADEN continued a bailliage of these eight cantons until the year 1712, when the civil war breaking out between the Pro-

testant and Catholic cantons, it was besieged and taken by the troops of Zurich and Berne; and at the peace of Arau was ceded to those two cantons and Glarus, which, on account of its neutrality, preserved its right of joint-sovereignty. Zurich and Berne did not, however, prove their disinterestedness, when, not content with finally settling the religious disputes in favour of the Protestants, they exacted from the Catholic cantons the cession of Baden, contrary to the convention of Stantz, which forms the basis of the Helvetic constitution. The umbrage conceived by the Catholic cantons at this step, was the principal inducement to conclude a perpetual alliance with France in 1715, and to throw themselves under the protection of that power. And this separate league has not been annulled by the general treaty which Louis XVI. contracted with the thirteen cantons in 1776. Until 1712, the diet of the thirteen cantons assembled at Baden; but has been since transferred to Frauenfeld. The three cantons alternately appoint a bailif, who resides in the castle. The inhabitants elect their own magistrates, and have their own judicial courts. In civil proceedings, an appeal lies to the bailif, and from his decision to the syndicate, composed of the deputies of the three cantons, and in the last resort to the three cantons themselves. In penal causes, the criminal court condemns, and the bailif enjoys the power of pardoning, or mitigating the sentence. The county or bailliage contains about 24,000 souls.

FROM Baden we walked through an agreeable and well-wooded country for some way along the side of the Limmat, whose

whose steep banks are covered with vines to the edge of the water; and in about two hours crossed the Reufs into the canton of Berne. Having passed through a plain, we arrived at the baths of Schintznach, a place remarkable for its agreeable position on the banks of the Aar, and its tepid mineral waters. It is also well known as being the first place where the Helvetic society assembled. This society, formed by some of the most learned men in Switzerland, both of the Catholic and Reformed religion, first helped to extend the spirit of toleration, and to lessen that antipathy which subsisted between the members of the two persuasions. Its publications have tended to promote a general zeal for the diffusion of polite literature. The meeting of this liberal society is now transferred to Olten, a small town in the canton of Soleure.

NEAR Schintznach stands, on a lofty eminence, the ruins of the castle of Hapsburgh, to which we ascended through a wood of beech, that seemed almost coeval with the date of the castle. The ruins consist of an antient tower, constructed with massy stones, in a rude style of architecture, and part of a small building of much later date. It was erected in the beginning of the eleventh century, by Werner, bishop of Strasburgh, came to his brothers Radebot and Latzelin, and devolved to their descendants. Otho, grandson of Radebot, was probably the first person upon record who styled himself count of Hapsburgh, and it continued to be the principal title by which his posterity was distinguished, until it was lost in a greater dignity, when Rhodolph of Hapsburgh was elevated to the imperial throne. His successors granted the castle and
its

its dependencies as a fief, to the lords of Wildeck, and afterwards to the lord of Wolen: in 1415 it was occupied by Berne, during the contest between the emperor Sigismond and Frederic of Austria, and given to the family of Segefern of Bruneck. In 1469, it was sold to the convent of Konigsfelden; on the dissolution of that monastery, at the reformation, was secularised, and seized by government; has gradually gone to decay; and is now inhabited by a peasant's family.

THIS castle commands an unbounded view over hills and dales, plains and forests, rivers and lakes, towns and villages, mountains and alps, emblem of that extent of power to which the talents of *one man*, who derived his title from this castle, raised himself and his descendants. You will readily perceive I allude to Rhodolph of Hapsburgh, who, from a simple baron of Switzerland, became emperor, and founded the House of Austria. Rhodolph was born in 1218. After signaling his youth in a constant scene of warfare and contention, he was, in 1273, unexpectedly raised to the dignity of emperor, and conferred honour on that exalted station, no less by his political sagacity than by his military prowess. He died in 1291, after a long and glorious reign, and in the seventy-third year of his age.

IMPRESSED with these ideas, as I considered, on the very spot, the origin of the House of Hapsburgh, and its gradual progress towards that height of power which it has since attained under the more distinguished appellation of the House of Austria; I could not but compare it to a small rill in the
Alps,

Alps, whose source is uncertain; which having received numberless streams, forms no inconsiderable river. Flowing through Switzerland, still almost unknown to its neighbours, it no sooner enters Germany, than it loses its name by its junction with the Danube; and, having collected the tribute of numberless rivers, rolls, with accumulated and still increasing waters, through an immense extent of country, and falls by a hundred mouths into the Euxine Sea;

————— *et pare*
Che guerra porta e non tributo al mare.*

RHODOLPH, during his residence in this castle, would not have given credit to a person endowed with the spirit of prophecy, who should have informed him, that, in little more than a century, a few small republics would drive his descendants from their hereditary dominions in Switzerland; and erect upon their ruins, and on the basis of equal liberty, a formidable confederacy, which would be courted by the most powerful sovereigns. Still less perhaps would he have believed, that he himself should possess the imperial throne, and found the House of Austria; that his lineal descendants should rule over Germany, Hungary, Bohemia, Austria, Spain, Burgundy, the Low Countries, Milan, Naples, and Sicily, and extend their dominion and influence from the shores of the Euxine to a New World beyond the Atlantic.

* Tasso.

L E T T E R 14.

KONIGSFELDEN—WINDISH—VOYAGE DOWN THE
RHINE.

HAVING satisfied our curiosity at the castle of Hapsburgh*, that cradle of the House of Austria, which still confers a title on the present emperor, we descended into the plain of Konigsfelden, to a convent of the same name, built by Elizabeth, on the spot where her husband, the emperor Albert I. was assassinated. The occasion of this assassination, and the circumstances attending it, were as follow. Albert, as guardian to his nephew John of Hapsburgh, had taken possession of his hereditary dominions in Switzerland, and refused, under various pretences, to deliver them up to him. At length, wearied with repeated and fruitless solicitations, John entered into a conspiracy against the emperor, with Rhodolph de Warth, Ulric de Palme, Walther de Eschenbach, and Conrad de Tagerfeld.

THE emperor dined at Baden, in his way to Rheinfelden, a town in the circle of Suabia, where the empress his consort had collected a considerable body of troops, with which

* There is also a castle of Hapsburgh, situated near the lake of Lucerne, which I visited in 1779. Some authors have erroneously asserted, that this was the castle from which the counts derived their titles. But Hergot has refuted this opinion; and unquestionably proved that honour to be due to the castle of Hapsburgh, which I have described in the preceding letter. See Hergot Gen. Dipl. Augf. Domus Habsb.

he proposed invading the three cantons of Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden, which had revolted against him. Contemporary historians, who have recorded the minutest circumstances in this whole transaction, relate, that Albert was in high spirits during the repast; and that, his nephew again entreating to be put into possession of his hereditary dominions, the emperor, with an air of banter, placed a garland of flowers upon his head, adding, at the same time, "This will be more suitable to you, for the present, than the cares of a troublesome government." This taunt had such an effect upon the young prince, that he burst into tears, flung away the flowers, and could not be prevailed upon to sit down to table. After dinner, Albert continued his journey on horseback, accompanied by his son Leopold, the conspirators, and his usual attendants; and came near the town of Windisch, in the canton of Berne, to the Reuss, over which river passengers were usually ferried upon a raft. The conspirators passed over first, and were followed by Albert: as he was riding gently on, expecting his son Leopold, and the remainder of his suite, he was suddenly beset by the assassins. One of them seizing his horse's bridle, John of Hapsburgh reproached him for his injustice in detaining his dominions; and struck him on the neck with his sword: Rhodolph de Warth wounded him in the side; and Ulric de Palme clove his head with a sabre. In this condition, they left him expiring upon the ground.

THIS assassination was committed the first of May 1308, in the open day, and in the sight of his son Leopold, and the rest of his court, who had not as yet passed the river; and

who, though witnesses to the murder, yet could not assist the emperor. The field lies between the Aar and the Reuss, not far from the junction of those two rivers; and the very spot, where he was massacred, is marked by a convent, erected by his wife Elizabeth and his daughter Agnes: the place was called *Konigsfelden*, or King'sfield; a name it retains to this day. The remains of the emperor were buried in the convent of Witterling, from whence they were afterwards transported to Spire, and there interred.

THE assassins escaped into the cantons of Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden, expecting to find a sure asylum in a nation, which Albert was preparing to invade. But the generous natives, detesting a crime of so atrocious a nature, although committed upon the person of their greatest and most formidable enemy, refused to protect the murderers. D'Eschenbach concealed himself in the disguise of a common labourer during thirty years, nor was his rank discovered till he confessed it upon his death-bed; De Palme, destitute of common necessities, died in extreme poverty; De Warth, tied to a horse's tail, like a common malefactor, and dragged to the place of execution, was broken upon the wheel. John of Hapsburgh, commonly known by the appellation of *parricide*, from this assassination, did not reap the expected benefits of the crime; for, by order of the emperor Henry the Seventh, he retired into a monastery of Augustine friars, where he died in 1313.

THE widow of Albert turned her whole thoughts towards revenging the death of her husband; and in this pursuit involved

volved the innocent as well as the guilty; all, who had the smallest connection with the assassins, being sacrificed with undistinguished cruelty to the manes of the emperor. Meanwhile the three cantons were, for a few years, left to the undisturbed enjoyment of their liberties, and to strengthen themselves against any future attack; and thus they innocently reaped the sole advantage which was derived from this assassination.

THE convent or abbey of Konigsfelden comprized, within its extensive precincts, a nunnery of the order of St. Clare, and a monastery of monks of the order of minorites, separated from each other by a wall. It was richly endowed by Elizabeth, her five sons, and her daughter Agnes queen of Hungary, who assumed the habit of a nun, and here passed the remainder of her days. At the reformation the abbey was secularized, and its lands appropriated by government: part of the building became the residence of the bailif, part was converted into an hospital, and part was suffered to fall to ruin. Many of the cells, formerly occupied by the nuns, still exist in their original state; and one, in particular, is distinguished as the habitation in which queen Agnes lived and died. The chapel still remains entire, but is no longer used for divine service. The glass windows are beautifully coloured, and painted with various histories of the Old Testament; with the portraits of Elizabeth and Agnes, of the emperor Albert, and his sons. On the walls also are coarsely represented the figures of Leopold duke of Austria, and the principal nobles who perished at the battle of Sempach. Elizabeth and Agnes, and several princes and princesses of the

House of Austria, were buried in this chapel; but their bones were a few years ago removed to the abbey of St. Blaise, in the Black Forest, where they were deposited with great pomp, and magnificent sepulchres erected to their memory.

NEAR Königsfelden is the small village of Windisch, standing at the conflux of the Aar and the Reufs, and supposed by antiquarians to occupy the site of *Vindonissa*, a Roman fortress mentioned by Tacitus. In traversing the place I did not observe the least signs of any antiquities; but various lapidary inscriptions, mile-stones, sepulchral urns, medals, coins, and gems, which have been found in great abundance, sufficiently prove, that it must have been the station of a large Roman colony. The reader, who is inclined to reflect on the vicissitudes of human possessions, will recollect with pleasure a quotation, which so happily relates to the present subject: “ Within the antient walls of Vindonissa, “ the castle of Hapsburgh, the abbey of Königsfeld, and the “ town of Bruck, have successively arisen. The philosophic “ traveller may compare the monuments of Roman conquest, of feudal or Austrian tyranny, of monkish superstition, and of industrious freedom. If he be truly a philosopher, he will applaud the merit and happiness of his “ own time *.”

EARLY the next morning we embarked on the Aar, which, though here a trifling stream, yet, being considerably swelled

* Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, vol. iii. p. 563.

by the tribute of waters from the Reufs and the Limmat, soon becomes a considerable river. Its banks are agreeably enlivened with meadows and woods, and spotted occasionally with villages, castles, and ruins, hanging on the water's edge. Having made a small turn, it falls by a strait channel into the Rhine, vying in size and rapidity with the great river in which it loses its name: its waters, which are of a silvery hue, are for a long way distinguished from those of the Rhine; which, being transparent, and of a sea-green colour, seem to disdain the union.

THE banks of the Rhine are far superior in wildness and beauty to those of the Aar, in many parts rising perpendicularly, yet feathered with wood; in others sloping in gentle declivities, richly bordered with vines, forest, and pastures; and exhibiting a continual succession of towns and villages. The rapid stream carried us above eighteen miles in three hours, and we disembarked at Lauffenburgh, where the Rhine forms a small cataract, which though greatly inferior to the fall of the same river near Schaffhausen, yet deserves to be visited by travellers for the beauties of the scenery. As I stood upon the crags of the northern shore, the principal objects were, a high bridge, partly open and partly covered, supported by three lofty stone piers; on the south a row of houses, with an old ruined castle on the summit, boldly overhanging the water; a perspective of woods and meadows under the arcades of the bridge; and the river dashing over its craggy bed, in a sloping cataract, until it loses itself suddenly among the rocks which close the view.

ABOUT half a mile below this fall we re-embarked, and found the waters in many parts more agitated than those of the Limmat; particularly near Rheinfelden, where they rush with such increasing velocity, that they were troubled like the waves of the sea, and, beating against the boat, turned it obliquely by their violence. Here we were hurried along with such rapidity, that though I had a pencil in my hand, I had no time for observation, much less for description; I could only catch a general glance of the romantic scenery, as we passed under a picturesque bridge of several arches, suspended high above the surface of the river, and joined to a steep rock, on which towered some majestic ruins. In many parts, and for a considerable way, our vessel passed within a few inches of the shelving rocks, and was only prevented from striking against them by the dexterity of the pilot. As we approached Basle the stream became gradually less rapid; and we disembarked highly delighted with our expedition.

L E T T E R 15.

THE TOWN OF BASLE—ERASMUS—LIBRARY—HOLBEIN.

I Arrived at Basle, as I supposed, about twelve at noon; but was much surprized to find, that all the clocks in the town actually struck one: and, on inquiry, I was informed, that they constantly go an hour faster than the real time. Different reasons have been assigned for this singularity: some assert, that it was first practised during the council of Basle, in order to assemble, at an earlier hour, the cardinals and bishops, who being very lazy and indolent, always arrived too late. Others maintain, that a conspiracy being formed to assassinate the magistrates at midnight; one of the burgomasters, who had notice of the design, advanced the town-clock an hour; by which means the conspirators, imagining they had missed the appointed time, retired; and that the clocks are still kept in the same advanced state, as a perpetual memorial of this happy deliverance. But there is a third reason given for this strange custom, which seems the most probable. It is well known that the choirs of cathedrals are constructed towards the east: that of Basle declines somewhat from this direction; and the sundial, which is placed upon the outside of the choir, and by which the town-clock is always regulated, partakes of this declination; a circumstance which, according to the celebrated Bernoulli, occasions a variation from the true time of above five-and-forty minutes.

THE

THE inhabitants of Basle are still so strongly attached to this whimsical custom, that, although it has been often proposed in the sovereign council to regulate their clocks properly, yet the motion has been invariably rejected; and the people would suspect that their liberties were invaded, if their clocks were to agree with those of the rest of Europe. A few years since, several leading men of the town determined to alter the hand of the sun-dial half a minute a day, until the shadow should imperceptibly point to the true hour. This expedient was accordingly practised, and the clock had already lost near three-quarters of an hour, when an accident discovered the design: the magistrates were accordingly compelled to place the hand of the sun-dial in its former position, and to regulate the hours by it as usual. Indeed, long-established customs, however indifferent or ridiculous, are apt to make so strong an impression upon vulgar minds, as to become sometimes dangerous, and always difficult to be abolished; especially among a people, like those of this country, who are averse to any change, even in the minutest articles. I need not remind you, how long it was before we could be persuaded in England, to reckon our years according to the general mode of computation received by the rest of Europe.

BASLE is beautifully situated upon the banks of the Rhine, near the point where that river, which here becomes very broad, deep and rapid, after flowing for some way from east to west, turns suddenly to the north. It consists of two towns joined together by a long bridge; the *large* town lies on the side of Switzerland, and the *small* town on the opposite banks
of

of the river. It stands very favourably for commerce; an advantage which the inhabitants have by no means neglected: for they have established a great variety of manufactures, particularly of ribbands and cottons; and an extensive trade is carried on by the principal merchants.

THE cathedral is an elegant gothic building, but strangely disfigured by a daubing of rose-coloured paint spread over the whole edifice. This cathedral contains the ashes of Gertrude Anne countess of Hohenburg, and wife of the emperor Rhodolph I. She died at Vienna, in 1281, and her body was conveyed to Basle. Her two christian names gave rise to much confusion, and led many historians to conclude that Gertrude and Anne were two different personages, and successive wives of that emperor; while others ridiculously supposed that both were married to him at the same time: nor were these erroneous opinions confuted, and the controversy finally settled, till Hergot, the laborious genealogist* of the House of Austria, proved, from the most unquestionable authorities of antient diplomes, the identity of this divided personage; and that the mistake arose from her being uniformly styled Gertrude before her coronation, and Anne after the performance of that ceremony. She bore to her husband fourteen children; and though the mother of so large a family, yet such was her extreme sensibility, that the grief which she suffered at the departure of her daughter Clementina to Naples, on her marriage with Charles Martel, hurried the afflicted parent to her grave.

* See Hergottii Geneal. Diplom. Dom. Aust. vol. i. p. 125.

IN the same church are deposited, under a marble tomb, the venerable remains of the great Erasmus. That distinguished writer joined to superior learning, and a peculiar elegance of style, the keenest wit, which he pointed, not only against the vices and ignorance of the monks, but the general corruptions and disorders of the Roman church. He was indeed the forerunner of Luther, in his first attacks upon the Catholics, respecting the sale of indulgences: but afterwards, when the controversy appeared more serious, and an open breach with the church of Rome seemed inevitable; he condemned the proceedings of that bold reformer. He considered them, indeed, as altogether unwarrantable; and, although he had himself censured and exposed the corruptions that infected the Catholic religion; yet he zealously inculcated submissive obedience to the decrees of what he called the "universal church." Agreeably to these sentiments, he advised the Protestants to endeavour at obtaining, by mild and patient measures, what they might indiscreetly lose by a warmer and more violent opposition.

SUCH temperate councils were ill suited to the daring and impetuous spirit of Luther. Accordingly, while Erasmus was acting the part of a mediator, and endeavouring to moderate and allay the flame on each side, he drew upon himself the displeasure of both parties: and, in allusion to this temporising conduct, one of his adversaries applied to him, not unaptly, that line in Virgil,

Terras inter cælumque volabat.

The impartial truth seems to be, that he was by no means disposed to become a martyr in the cause: the natural
timidity

timidity of his temper, a too great deference to persons of superior rank and power, and perhaps also the fear of losing his pensions, probably induced him to take a decided part against the reformers, and condemn their separation from the church of Rome.

But it would be uncandid to impute his conduct wholly to selfish considerations: something may fairly be ascribed to the powerful impressions of early prejudices; and something to that rooted love of peace and studious tranquillity, which seems to have been the governing principle of all his actions. But, whatever imperfections may be discovered in some particular parts of his character, his memory must ever be revered by every friend of genius, learning, and moderation. Liveliness of imagination, depth and variety of erudition, together with great sagacity of judgment, were in him eminently united. He infused a spirit of elegance even into theological controversies; and contributed to disencumber literature from that scholastic jargon with which it was disgraced. Erasmus reflected much honour upon this town, by choosing it as the favourite place of his residence, and publishing from hence the greatest part of his valuable works. In the public library are preserved, with great veneration, several of his letters, and his last testament, written with his own hand; as also his hanger and seal.

THE university of Basle was formerly eminent in the literary history of Europe. Who, in the least conversant in letters, is unacquainted with the celebrated names of Oecolampadius, Amerbach, the three Bauhins, Grynæus, Bux-

torf, Wetstein, Ifelin, the Bernoullis, and Euler? If it has fallen from its pristine state of renown, its decline must be principally imputed to the casual method of electing the professors; but it still boasts several members who do honour to their native town by their learning and abilities.

THE public library contains a small collection of books, chiefly remarkable for several rare and valuable editions; particularly of those printed in the fifteenth century. The most curious manuscripts are numerous letters of the first reformers, and of other learned men in the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth centuries; and an account of the proceedings at the council of Basle. The minutes of that council were taken by John of Segovia; and are supposed to be the same which are preserved either in the library, or in the archives of the town: the former is written on paper, the latter on parchment. A question has arisen which of these two is the original. Some conclude in favour of that in the archives, on account of the many false readings and mistakes in the other, which are plainly the faults of a copyist. Others give the preference to that in the library, because it is written in different hands, and with different ink, which seem to imply that it was noted down at various intervals, according as the acts of the council were passed; whereas that in the archives, being penned on parchment, in the same hand, and with the same ink, was probably copied from the original minutes; for who, it is urged, would take minutes on parchment? A third opinion still more probable, is, that neither of these are the original. Several passages are wanting in both; which omission may have

have proceeded from the transcriber's not being able to read every part of the original. It is probable also that John of Segovia took away the minutes, and deposited them at Rome; and that one of these manuscripts was the copy transcribed by order of the council; of these, the manuscript on parchment appears to be the most authentic.

IN a suite of rooms belonging to this library, is a cabinet of petrifications, collected in the canton of Basle by the Rev. Mr. Annoni; some antient medals and gems; a few antiquities found at Augst; a large number of prints; and some fine drawings and paintings, consisting chiefly of originals by Holbein, who was a native of this town. These pictures are, most of them, in the highest preservation: the connoisseur can here trace all the different manners of Holbein, and compare the productions of his youth with those of his maturer age. A few are here preserved, which he painted before he had reached his sixteenth year; and one extremely curious, which he drew upon a sign for a writing-master. The portraits of himself, his wife, and children, in the same group, are much admired for nature and simplicity of expression. The most valuable of these paintings is an altar-piece, in eight compartments, which represents the passion of our Saviour: a performance, in which this admirable artist has carried to the highest perfection, that singular brilliancy of colouring so peculiar to his best compositions. I was much struck with a profile of his friend and patron Erasmus, writing his commentary upon St. Matthew: there is a spirit and animation in the countenance, finely expressive of the great author's sagacious and penetrating talents.

lents. Among the works of Holbein, that discover the liveliness of his fancy, must be mentioned the sketches which he drew, on pursuing the Eulogium of Folly by Erasmus, on the margin of that work, which he received as a present from the author. This curious volume is preserved in the library; and has been lately published by Mr. Haas, in French, Latin, and German, with fac-similes of the original designs, engraved on wood.

THE dance of death, in the church-yard of the predicants of the suburbs of St. John, is frequently shewn to strangers as being of Holbein's pencil. It is painted in oil-colours upon a wall which encloses the burial-ground: but, as it has several times been retouched, no traces are discoverable of that great master's hand. In fact, the Hon. Horace Walpole, and other unquestionable judges, have proved, that this performance was painted before Holbein was born, and that he was not employed even in retouching it. It is probable, however, that, from this antient painting, he took the first hint towards composing his famous drawings on the dance of death. In treating this subject, he has displayed such wonderful richness of imagination, and discovered so much judgment in the disposition, and so much spirit in the execution of the figures, that Rubens studied them with particular attention, and took drawings from them. The originals of Holbein's dance of death were purchased by Mr. Fleischman of Strasbourg, at the sale of the famous collection of Crozat, at Paris; of which Mariette has published a catalogue. They are now in the possession of prince Gallitzin, minister from the empress of Russia to the court of Vienna. They consist of

of forty-four small drawings: the outlines are sketched with a pen, and they are slightly shaded with Indian ink. I had frequent opportunities of seeing them, during my continuance at Vienna; and particularly admired the variety of attitudes and characters in which death is represented.

PRINTS have been taken from some of these drawings by Hollar, which are very scarce. Mr. de Mechel, a celebrated artist of this place, has already engraved them after the original designs; a work which cannot fail of being highly acceptable to the admirers of the fine arts. He has added four engravings, which are not in the prince's collection, and which are taken from the prints of Hollar. Mr. de Mechel ingeniously conjectures, from the dresses and characters of several of the figures in the dance of death, that the author sketched them while he was in England. They were, probably, in the Arundelian collection when Hollar engraved them. He has finished also a set of prints from the fine paintings of the Duffeldorf gallery, and likewise engravings of the famous Hedlinger's medals. This able artist has a small but well-chosen collection of paintings: and his magazine of prints (in which article he carries on a very considerable trade) is perhaps one of the largest and most complete in Europe. I am acquainted with no person to whom the curious traveller can address himself with greater advantage than to Mr. de Mechel, nor from whom he can receive more useful information. To a particular knowledge of the physical beauties of Switzerland, he joins a thorough acquaintance with the different governments, customs, and manners of the several cantons. As he is intimately connected with
the

the principal men of learning in this country, his letters of recommendation are the most desirable, and the most beneficial, that can be procured: and he enjoys as much satisfaction in conferring, as can be received by accepting, his good offices. He indeed possesses a great fund of good-humour, an amiable frankness of disposition, and a certain originality of manner, which, together with his other valuable qualities, recommend him as a no less pleasing than useful acquaintance.

I VISITED also the small but pleasing collection of pictures, mostly of the Flemish and Dutch schools, belonging to Mr. Faesch, member of the Great Council. In the court-yard before his house is a wooden statue of Rhodolph I. sitting on a throne, and clothed with the imperial insignia; underneath-I observed the date of 1273, the æra of that emperor's coronation; and the rudeness of the sculpture renders it probable that it is an original of that great emperor, who was besieging Basle when he received the unexpected news of his election. The gates were immediately thrown open; and he was instantly admitted as a friend into that town, which had shut its gates against him as their enemy. On this occasion he resided a short time at Basle, and, as tradition relates, in this very house.

I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER 16.

GOVERNMENT OF BASLE.

THE bishops of Basle once possessed the sovereignty over the city and canton; but were gradually deprived of their prerogatives; and, in 1501, finally quitted this town, when the canton joined the Helvetic confederacy. They at first retired to Friburgh in Brisgau, and afterwards, establishing their residence at Porentru, entirely lost the trifling authority and inconsiderable prerogatives which remained to them. Upon the introduction of the reformation in 1525, the constitution was in some measure changed; and the power of the aristocracy limited.

It would seem in theory scarcely possible to divide the aristocratical and democratical commonwealths into so many different species as exist in Switzerland: for, in this country, every republic has its peculiar modification; and there is none more singular than that of Basle. To view the general outlines of the constitution, it has the appearance of an absolute aristocracy*; but, upon considering it in detail, it will be found to incline towards a democracy. The supreme

* An aristocracy (strictly speaking) means that form of government, which places the supreme power in the nobles, exclusively of the people; but here I mean by it, the confining of the sovereign authority to a certain limited number of persons, without considering whether they are patricians or plebeians, nobles or commons: for at Basle every citizen who is noble, and who chuses to retain his title of nobility, is incapable of being elected a member of the sovereign council.

legislative power resides in the Great and Little Councils, consisting of about three hundred members: and the authority of these two councils combined, is without controul. They enact laws, declare war and peace, contract alliances, and impose taxes: they elect the several magistrates, appoint their own members, nominate to all employments, and confer the right of burghership. The general administration of government is committed by the Great Council to the Senate, or Little Council; that is, to a part of its own body. This Senate, composed of sixty members, together with the four chiefs of the republic, two burgomasters, and two great tribunes, is divided into two bodies, which act by rotation. The acting division continues in office one year, decides finally in all criminal causes, superintends the police, and exercises several other powers subordinate to the Sovereign Council. The collective body of citizens assembles only once a year, when the magistrates publicly take an oath to maintain the constitution, and preserve the liberties and immunities of the people, inviolate. The reciprocal oath of obedience to the laws, is administered to the citizens in their respective tribes.

BUT, notwithstanding the great and boundless prerogatives of the Great Council; yet the meanest citizen is legally capable of being admitted into that body; and, by the singular method of election, may possibly be chosen. For, the vacancies in the councils are supplied from all ranks of citizens, one class only excepted, the members of the university. These citizens are divided into eighteen tribes, called in German *Zuenfte*; fifteen of which belong to the larger town,

town, and three to the smaller: each of the first-mentioned fifteen tribes, returns four members to the Senate; and each of the whole eighteen, sends twelve to the Great Council. Formerly these elections were determined by a plurality of voices: but, as by these means the richest person was always certain of being chosen; a *ternaire* was established in 1718; that is, three candidates were nominated, and from these the successor was appointed * by lot.

ALTHOUGH this mode of election in some measure put a stop to corruption; yet it was not sufficient to counteract entirely the influence of the wealthy: and, as the poorer citizens could seldom succeed to the most honourable or lucrative employments; they procured an act to be passed in 1740, changing the *ternaire* into a *senaire*: by which six candidates, instead of three, were put in nomination, and drew lots for the charge. Six tickets, containing the names of the respective candidates, and separately placed in silver eggs, are inserted into one bag; and the same number of tickets, five of which are blanks, and one is marked with the vacant employment, are placed in another. The reigning burgomaster and the great tribune, appointed to be the drawers of this *official* lottery, both at the same instant take

* The fifteen tribes in the great town are called *Zuente*, and the three in the small town *Gesellschaften*, or companies. It may also be remarked, that the citizens of the small town enjoy more advantages than those of the great town; inasmuch as the former may be appointed to public employments either in the tribes or in the companies; whereas a citizen of the great town cannot be admitted into the companies, unless he resides in the small town.

a ticket from each bag; and the candidate whose name comes out at the same time with the ticket on which the employment is written, obtains the post.

It would be too tedious, and indeed too uninteresting, a detail, to enter into a minute account of the forms and circumstances requisite to be observed in selecting the several candidates. To give, however, some general idea of this matter:—Upon a vacancy in the Great Council, for instance, the six candidates must be taken from the citizens of that tribe, to which the person who occasioned the vacancy belonged; and must be nominated by such of the members of the Great and Little Councils, as are of the same tribe. The candidates for the senate and for the tribunes or chiefs of each tribe, called in German *meister*, are appointed by the Great Council. There is but one case, in which the *senaire* is not practised: for, upon the death of a burgomaster, his colleague, who is the great tribune, succeeds of course. It should seem, that many inconveniences must necessarily flow from this absurd method of supplying vacant posts in the government; as they are left intirely to the capricious disposal of fortune. In fact, it has not unfrequently happened, that a candidate, whose knowledge and abilities rendered him capable of being serviceable to the state, has never obtained the successful ticket; while fortune has bestowed it upon another by no means qualified to fulfil the duties of the employment. However, notwithstanding the ill effects resulting from this casual method of election; the management of public affairs is in general tolerably well conducted; and

and there are few instances of civil justice being unwisely administered, or of innocence being sacrificed to superior wealth or power.

BUT the counsellors of state and the several magistrates, are not the only persons chosen by lot; even the professors in the university are elected in the same manner. The three candidates however, (for in this instance the *ternaire* is still in use) must be nominated from those who have taken the degree of doctor. Hence nothing is more common than for a candidate to offer himself for the professorship of a science, which he has never made the peculiar object of his studies; if the chair of that particular branch of literature in which he excels is already occupied: for, under these circumstances, the respective unqualified professors change places with each other. Thus (to mention an instance from a family well known) John Bernoulli, the famous mathematical professor in this university, who died in 1748, left three sons, Nicholas, Daniel, and John, all justly celebrated for their skill in that science, in which their father and uncle so eminently excelled. Nicholas died at St. Petersburg, member of the Imperial Academy of Sciences; and Daniel, having followed his brother into Russia, returned to Basle on obtaining the professorship of anatomy, which he afterwards had an opportunity of happily exchanging for that of natural philosophy, and died in 1782. A similar circumstance happened to the third son John: after being several times appointed an unsuccessful candidate in the lottery of professorships, chance at length conferred on him the chair of *rhetoric*; but, upon his father's death, he changed with Mr. Rumspeck,

speck, to whom fortune, with her usual judgment, had assigned the professorship of mathematics*.

THE sumptuary laws are very strict at Basle. The use of coaches in the town is not indeed prohibited, as at Zurich; but, what is more singular, no citizen or inhabitant is allowed to have a servant behind his carriage. Laws of this kind may be carried, in some instances, to a scrupulous and even ridiculous minuteness; upon the whole, however, they are excellent regulations, and not only useful but necessary in a small republic. They have certainly operated with great advantage in this town: for, although it contains several families who are considerably rich; yet a happy simplicity of manners is still so predominant, that you would smile, if I were to particularise those articles which pass under the opprobrious denomination of *luxury*.

* The following curious epitaph on a lawyer, interred in the cathedral, complains, that the deceased, notwithstanding his advanced age of 84, which had afforded many opportunities of being nominated candidate for various offices of state, had been continually excluded by fortune.

S: E: S:

Locum quo Sepeliretur

de suo acquisivit

JOH: GEORG: SCHWEIGHAUSER

J. U. L. Ducentum Vir

Fori judicarii et Appellationis

ultra XL. Annos assiduus Assessor

muneribus autem Academicis

et publicis Officiis

Sorte constanter exclusus

vixit tamen et vivere desit

ut Virum Honestum decet

natus Mense Januario 1695.

Obiit Die VII Mensis Junii 1779.

H. M. H. P.

THE

THE lower rank of citizens are in general so strongly prejudiced in favour of their own country, as to seem convinced that true felicity is only to be found at Basle: and indeed that class of people are in no part of the world more happy. Every person boasts that he is free, and is so in reality: and, as the citizens not only possess very considerable privileges and immunities, but each individual may also indulge the hope of being one day chosen into the sovereign council; he enjoys a certain degree of respect and consideration extremely flattering to his self-importance. In fact, there are several among the magistrates who exercise the meaner trades; and the present treasurer, whose name is Muench, is a baker: he is indeed a person of distinguished knowledge and merit; and has been twice appointed one of the candidates for the office of great tribune; which, if fortune had favoured him, would have been followed, on the next vacancy, by his succession to the office of burgo-master.

IN general the burghers sons receive an excellent education: they always learn the Latin, and not unfrequently the Greek tongue; and it is by no means unusual, even for the lower sort of tradesmen, to employ their leisure hours in the perusal of Horace, Virgil, and Plutarch.

THE conduct of magistrates is no where more freely, nor more severely, criticised than at Basle. The people may sometimes, no doubt, extend this privilege beyond its proper limits;

limits; but they can never be totally restrained from exercising it, without striking at the vitals of their liberty: it is essential to its existence, and no free government can long survive its extinction.

BASLE is the largest, and seems formerly to have been one of the most populous, towns in Switzerland: its extent is capable of containing above a hundred thousand inhabitants; whereas it can scarcely number more than fourteen thousand. Many particular causes may have concurred to occasion this remarkable decrease of people; but I will mention only one or two reasons to which it may be assigned. It is proved, from undoubted calculations, that, in all great cities, the number of burials exceeds that of births; consequently, unless this unequal proportion is compensated by a constant accession of new inhabitants, in process of time every great town must necessarily become depopulated. Now the citizens of Basle are so jealous of the burghership, and pride themselves so much upon the privileges which accompany it, that they seldom deign to confer it upon foreigners: a supply therefore to balance that gradual waste of people I have mentioned, can never be derived from an influx of strangers, where they are not permitted to carry on commerce, or to follow any trade. A few years ago, some of the magistrates, sensible of the impolicy attending this unlimited prohibition, procured a law, by which the freedom of the town and the right of burghership was allowed to be conferred upon strangers; but it was clogged at the same time with so many restrictions, as
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by no means to answer the purpose for which it was intended. Every principle, indeed, of private interest and ambition, concurred to prevent its efficacy: and no wonder; for, bodies of men are seldom actuated by so generous a spirit as to sacrifice their personal and immediate advantages, to the future welfare and prosperity of their country.

I am, &c.

LETTER 17.

COMBAT AT THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JAMES, BETWEEN
THE FORCES OF LOUIS DAUPHIN OF FRANCE, AND
A CORPS OF SWISS TROOPS—RUINS OF AUGST—
MULHAUSEN.

CURIOSITY led me, during my continuance at Basle, to visit the hospital and burying-ground of St. James, not far from the town, and near the small river Birs, celebrated for a desperate combat, in 1444, between the Swiss and the dauphin of France, afterwards Louis the Eleventh: and never was Swiss valour and intrepidity so signally displayed, as by a few battalions of their troops on that memorable day.

THIS famous battle was fought in consequence of some disputes, which arose between the canton of Zurich and those of Schweitz and Glarus. Zurich refusing to abide by the mediation of the five neutral cantons, who had decided in favour of Schweitz and Glarus, a civil war ensued: upon which occasion, Zurich formed an alliance with the emperor Frederic the Third. The seven antient cantons, in order to obtain a renunciation of this alliance, which they justly considered as an infringement of their league, laid siege to that town. Frederic, unable to send a sufficient body of troops to its relief, applied for additional succours to Charles the Seventh, king of France; who, as well with a view of dissolv-
ing

ing the council of Basle, as for the particular purpose required, ordered a considerable army to march, under the command of his son Louis. Accordingly the dauphin entered with his forces into Alface; and, after laying waste and harassing the adjacent provinces, appeared before Basle. Upon this occasion, a detachment of fifteen hundred Swiss from the army of the confederates (at that time employed in besieging Farnspurg) were ordered to throw themselves into the town of Basle, which was but slightly garrisoned.

THIS handful of men advanced without interruption to the plain of Brattelen; where they charged, with such determined and well-conducted valour, eight thousand of the enemy's cavalry, that the latter were driven back as far as Muttenez; at which place the repulsed were joined by another corps: but, notwithstanding this reinforcement, the Swiss renewing the assault with fresh intrepidity, forced them to repass the river Birs; where the main body of the army was chiefly drawn up. Such was the firmness and solidity of the Swiss in these several rencounters, that, to use the expression of an old French chronicle, when the cavalry charged "they could make no more impression, than if they had attacked a rock, or an impenetrable wall." The Swiss, encouraged by this wonderful success, and exasperated with the most spirited indignation against the invaders of their country, disregarded the remonstrances of their officers, and rashly attempted to force their passage over a bridge, which was guarded by a large body of the enemy: but this effort of inconsiderate valour proving ineffectual, these gallant soldiers, throwing themselves into the river, gained the oppo-

sité shore, in the face of a battery of cannon that was playing against them.

WHAT could the desperate courage of so small a number avail, against an army of thirty thousand men advantageously posted in an open plain? They had no alternative but either to throw down their arms, or gloriously expire. They bravely preferred the latter: accordingly five hundred took possession of a small island near the bridge, and, after resolutely defending themselves to the last extremity, were cut to pieces. A like number forced their way through the ranks of the enemy, and were making towards Basle; when they were opposed by a large body of horse, posted there to prevent the inhabitants of the town from rallying to the relief of their countrymen. Being now surrounded on all sides, they threw themselves into the hospital of St. James; and, lining the walls of the burying-ground, resisted for some time the united assaults of the whole French army. At length the hospital being set on fire, and the cannon having battered down the walls of the burying-ground, they fought no longer in hopes of victory; but still resolving to sell their lives as dear as possible, they continued to defend themselves to the last gasp.

ÆNEAS SYLVIUS (afterwards pope Pius II.) relates, among other actions of singular valour, exerted by this heroic troop, a particular instance, which I cannot forbear mentioning. Four French soldiers assaulted a single Swiss, and having killed and stripped him, proceeded to insult the corpse: one of his companions, incensed at this brutal action, seized a battle-

the-ax, rushed upon the four, flew two of them, and drove the others to flight; then flinging the dead body of his friend upon his shoulders, carried it to a place of security; and returning to the attack, fell by the hand of the enemy. Of the whole number but sixteen escaped from the field of battle; and these, agreeably to the old Spartan discipline, were branded with infamy, for not having sacrificed their lives in defence of their country. Among those who were desperately wounded, and left upon the field of action, only thirty-two were found alive. The names of many of these glorious combatants were carefully registered, and still remain upon record.

It is not easy to ascertain the number of forces on both sides in this ever-memorable engagement. As far as we can judge, by comparing the several relations of the French and German historians, the army of the dauphin consisted of at least thirty thousand. Charles and his son Louis, in their letters to the German princes on this occasion, assert, that three thousand Swiss fell on the field of battle; and perhaps that account is not much exaggerated. With respect to the slain on the side of the dauphin, the amount is still more uncertain: his loss, however, must have been very considerable, for he remained three days upon the field of battle; and, the better to conceal the number of the killed, he ordered the dead bodies to be secretly interred in different parts of the neighbourhood. Add to this, that he was effectually prevented from prosecuting his designs upon Switzerland, and compelled to retire with his shattered army into Alsace. Louis himself, indeed, declared, that such
another

another victory would ruin his army; and generously confessed, that he derived from it no other advantage, than to know and esteem the valour of the Swifs. Accordingly, this combat may be confidered as forming a remarkable æra in the history of the Swifs: for, it gave rise to their treaty with Charles the Seventh, the first alliance which they contracted with France.

THE war, however, between the House of Austria and Zurich on one side, and the seven cantons on the other, continued until the year 1446, when a peace was concluded by the mediation and decision of certain arbiters: Zurich renounced its connection with the House of Austria; and the Helvetic Confederacy was again solemnly renewed and confirmed between the eight cantons. Upon this occasion, two very important articles in the public law of Switzerland, were finally settled: First, that all disputes between any particular cantons, should be decided by the mediation of the neutral cantons; and if either of the two contending parties should decline to acquiesce under their judgment, the neutral cantons are empowered to have recourse to arms, in order to compel the recusant to abide by their determination: Secondly, notwithstanding the right which either of the cantons might have reserved to itself, of contracting alliances with foreign powers, yet the other confederates are to judge, whether such alliance is contradictory to, or incompatible with, the articles of the general union; and if it should appear to be so, it is declared utterly null and void.

THE

THE Swifs still talk of this famous action with the warmest enthufiafm. Accordingly, the inhabitants of Bafle form parties every year, to an inn fituated near the hofpital and burying-ground of St. James, in order to commemorate, in a red wine produced from fome vineyards planted on the field of battle, the heroic deeds of their brave countrymen, who fo gloriously facrificed their lives upon the occafion. This wine, which they called the “*Blood of the Swifs*,” is highly prized by the Bafileans, though it has little to recommend it in point of flavour; nevertheless, I am much miftaken, if that famous line of Horace,

Non miffura cutem nifi plena cruoris,

was more applicable to the teasing poet he mentions, than it is to thofe jovial patriotic parties, at the anniversary com-
potations of the “*Blood of the Swifs*.”

NEAR Bafle are the ruins of *Augusta Rauricorum*, formerly a large town under the dominion of the Romans, now a fmall village in the canton of Bafle, clofe to the Rhine. Its antient remains are very inconfiderable, confifting of a few columns of marble, ftill ftanding, and fome fcattered fragments of pillars, together with a femicircular range of walls upon a rifing ground, the greateft part of which has fallen, and is almoft entirely overgrown with underwood. From the prefent appearance of thefe ruins, I fhould hardly have conjectured that they once compofed part of a theatre, capable of containing above twelve thoufand fpectators. But the celebrated Schæfflin has given, in his *Alfatia Illu-
strata*,

strata, a particular description of this theatre, and of the temple, to which the marble columns formerly belonged. I noticed also the remains of some small aqueducts, which conveyed water to the town from the distance of above twelve miles : but none of these antient relics are sufficiently remarkable to merit the trouble of a particular visit.

THE peasants, in turning up the ground where these ruins are situated, frequently find medals of the Roman emperors, from Augustus to Constantine ; and are become, by repeated experience, able to distinguish, with some degree of precision, those that are rare from the more common coins. I purchased of a labourer two medals, which he had just found ; a Trajan and an Albinus : and though the former was by far the most perfect, yet he exacted three times as much for the latter, because he had never seen it, he said, before.

FROM Basle I made an excursion to Mulhausen, a town in alliance with the Swiss cantons ; which, though situated at the distance of several miles from the frontiers of Switzerland, and entirely enclosed within the dominions of France, is yet considered and respected as a part of the Helvetic Confederacy ; and entitled to all the privileges enjoyed by that body.

MULHAUSEN stands in Sundgau, a district of Alsace, about fifteen miles from Basle ; in a fertile plain, at the bottom of a ridge of hills, and at a small distance from the Voges. The walls of the town enclose a circumference of
not

not more than two miles, and its whole territory is comprised within a precinct of eight miles. This little republic maintained its privileges, which had been granted by the emperors, during the times of feudal tyranny, by contracting an alliance, at different intervals, with Basle, Strasburgh, and the towns of Alface and Suabia; and afterwards, in the middle of the fifteenth century, with Berne, Friburgh, and Soleure. At length, in 1515, it was received into the Helvetic Confederacy; which league has preserved its liberty and independence from the encroachments of the empire, on one hand, and, on the other, from the attacks of France. The inhabitants are of the Reformed religion. The town contains about eight hundred houses, and six thousand souls, and there are two thousand subjects in the villages within its little territory. Mulhausen owes its present flourishing state, to its manufactures, which consist principally of printed linens and cottons. The government is aristo-democratical. The supreme power resides in the Great and Little Councils, consisting both together of seventy-eight persons, and drawn from the burghers, whose number amounts to seven hundred, distributed into six tribes.

Mr. Koehlin's commercial school deserves to be mentioned. It is a private institution for about thirty scholars, who are instructed in the German, French, and Latin languages; in fencing, dancing, and all polite accomplishments; and more particularly in accounts and book-keeping. The expence, including an uniform, amounts to £. 50 *per annum*. The plan is very judicious, and the whole appeared to me to be well conducted.

L E T T E R 18.

BISHOPRIC OF BASLE — PORENTRU — ABBEY OF
 BELLELAY — ARLESHEIM — DELMONT — VALLEY
 OF MUNSTER — PIERRE PERTUIS — VALLEY OF
 ST. IMER.

ALTHOUGH the greatest part of the dominions subject to the Bishop of Basle, or as he is called by the Protestants, the Prince of Porentru, is not comprised within the limits of Switzerland; yet as, till lately, he was in alliance with the Catholic cantons, and as many of his subjects, even in those districts which lie within the German empire, are comburghers with Berne, and under the protection of that republic, his territory is usually included in all the topographical accounts of Switzerland. It merits also the notice of the traveller for its romantic scenes, of the mineralogist for the variety of its petrifications and fossils, and of the politician for the peculiarity of its government, and the numerous and complicated immunities of the people.

HAVING made various excursions into this country, I shall lay before you a general account of its political state, and a particular description of those parts which I had an opportunity of visiting.

THE

THE bishopric of Basle may be classed under two general divisions: the first lies to the south of Pierre Pertuis, and forms a part of Switzerland; the second, to the north of the same boundary, includes that district situated within the German empire.

THE sovereign of this country is chosen by the chapter of eighteen canons, resident at Arlesheim, and confirmed by the pope. He is prince of the German empire; and does homage to the emperor for that part of his territory which lies in the Circle of the Upper Rhine. He was always considered as an ally of the Swiss, by his union with the Catholic cantons, first formed in 1579, and renewed at different intervals, particularly in 1671 and 1697; and by being included in the treaty which those cantons contracted with France in 1715. But as he was not comprised among the allies of the Swiss, in the league between the thirteen cantons and Louis the Sixteenth, in 1777, he can at present scarcely be esteemed a member of the Helvetic Confederacy. The first particular alliance with France was concluded in 1739, between the bishop and Louis the Fifteenth; and was renewed in 1780. By virtue of this treaty the bishop has troops in the French service; and his subjects enjoy all the privileges which are granted to the natives of the thirteen cantons. In case of a rupture between France and the Empire, he is bound to remain neuter. But this neutrallity did not, in 1675, prevent the French troops from being quartered in his dominions, as forming part of the empire; and they were only removed at the intercession of the Catholic cantons. If a misunderstanding should arise between France and the Emperor, the bishop's situation would be ex-

tremely embarrassing; as his doubtful connection with the Swifs would scarcely preserve his territory from being invaded by one of those two powers.

THE form of government is a limited sovereignty: the bishop being bound, on all important occasions, to consult his chapter; and his prerogative being confined by the great immunities enjoyed by his subjects in general, and particularly by those of the Reformed communion. He nominates to all employments, both civil and military, and appoints the bailifs or governors; penal justice is administered in his name; and he has the power of pardoning criminals. In civil proceedings, he receives an appeal from the inferior courts; but in his German dominions, when the cause exceeds the value of a stipulated sum, it may be carried to the chambers of Wetzlar or Vienna. The subjects of the bishop are partly Protestants and partly Catholics. The Protestants, of whom a more particular account will be given, inhabit the greatest part of the valley of Munster, and the whole district to the south of Pierre Pertuis, and are about 15,000; the Catholics amount to 35,000.

THE French and German languages being both spoken in the bishop's dominions, several places have two names, that scarcely resemble each other; namely, *Munster* and *Moitier*, *Dachfeld* and *Tavannes*, *Delmont* and *Delsberg*, *Corrandelin* and *Rennendorf*, *Elay* and *Seebof*.

PORENTRU, capital of the bishop's dominions, and his principal residence, is situated in the bailliage of Elsgau, about three miles from the frontiers of France. It is a small

small but neat town; and its position, in an oval plain, surrounded by well-wooded hills, and watered by a serpentine rivulet, is exceedingly pleasant. The episcopal palace, which has been lately repaired and augmented, stands on an eminence overlooking the town, and the environs fertile in corn and pasture. One of the towers, built of stone, and said to be of Roman workmanship, still remains a monument of its antiquity.

THE high roads, which lead from all quarters to Porentru, and have been formed at a considerable expence, do honour to the sovereigns of this country. The way to Bellelay and Bienne, is a magnificent causeway: it traverses a mountainous district; is carried over hanging terraces; through "twilight groves," and along continued acclivities and declivities. I pursued the latter part by moonlight; and the reflection of the rays quivering through the thick foliage was inconceivably beautiful. Bellelay, which I visited in my journey from Bienne to Porentru, is a rich abbey of Benedictines, about twenty miles from the capital, in a solitary but not unpleasant situation, surrounded by mountains, and sheltered by forests. This abbey is not merely confined to religious purposes; the late abbot, Nicholas de Luce, having instituted a military academy for the young nobility and gentry. For this purpose he erected a large building near the abbey, and provided suitable masters and professors. When I was at Bellelay, the number of scholars amounted to forty. They are instructed in various branches of polite literature; they wear uniforms; and are trained to military manœuvres and exercises. The cheapness

cheapness of this school, and its distance from the dissipation of large towns, renders it of great public utility. The whole expence of each scholar, for his board, lodging, instruction, and various lessons, scarcely exceeds £. 20 *per annum*. It is curious to find a military academy established in the midst of rocks and forests, and within the walls of a convent; and to observe Benedictine friars, instead of wasting their time in monkish ignorance and superstition, rendering themselves beneficial to society.

THE chapter, composed of eighteen canons, who, upon a vacancy in the see, possess the right of electing the bishop, was fixed at Friburgh in Brisgau from the period of the reformation, which drove them from Basle, to 1677, when Friburgh was occupied by the French troops. In the following year the chapter was transferred to Arlesheim, where it now resides. The vacant canonries are filled alternately by the pope and chapter.

ON the 14th of August 1786, I made an excursion, in company with several friends, to Arlesheim, which is a small but agreeably situated place, almost four miles from Basle. We had the honour of dining with the Baron de Ligertz, one of the canons. After a repast, no less elegant than agreeable, our host politely accompanied us to a garden styled The Hermitage, about a quarter of a mile from Arlesheim; which was laid out at the joint expence of the baron and of Madame d'Andlau, the bailif's lady, with a view to employ the poor in a time of great scarcity, and to provide walks for the inhabitants of the town. The grounds are very extensive;

five; and pleasant. The walks are carried along the sides of the rocks, which are richly wooded, and through a delightful semicircular plain, bounded by fertile hills, and watered by a small lake, the borders of which are peculiarly wild and picturesque. Several caverns, hollowed and arched by the hand of nature, add to the romantic singularity of the scenery; while many transparent streams, conveyed from a considerable distance, fall in small cascades, or bubble from the ground like real springs. A fastidious observer might perhaps remark of this enchanting spot, that in a few circumstances nature has been too much sacrificed to art; and that there are some buildings less calculated to please than to surprise. The following elegant inscription for this charming hermitage was extemporarily composed by professor Oberlin of Straßburgh, one of our party.

HOSPES · AMICE,
HASCE · DELICIAS.
NATURÆ · DEBES ·
DEBES · INDUSTRIÆ ·
BALBINÆ · AB · ANDLAV.
HENRICI · A · LIGERTZ.

I SHALL close this letter with an account of my journey from Basle to Bienne, through the vallies of Lauffen, Delmont, Munster, and St. Imier, a tract of country in the bishopric of Basle, which is not inferior in beauty to the most delightful parts of Switzerland.

WE quitted Basle early in the morning; and passed through a fertile plain watered by the Birs, and bounded by

two

two chains of the Jura; one whereof terminates abruptly, supporting on its summit the castle of Wertenburgh. As we continued our route, the plain gradually narrowed; the mountains approached each other; and we entered the rich valley of Lauffen, enclosed between the rocks, sprinkled with groves of oak and beech, exhibiting many romantic points of view. Lauffen, which gives name to the valley, has its own magistrates, and inferior courts of justice. The natives are industrious: those who are not employed in agriculture, gain a comfortable livelihood from making cloth, spinning yarn, and knitting worsted stockings. The inhabitants of the valley talk German, and those of Sautier, a small neighbouring village, French, which language is spoken through the vallies of Delmont, Munster, and St. Imier. About three leagues from Lauffen we came to a narrow pass, entered the valley of Delmont, near Sautier; quitted the high road, and gently ascended to Delmont, which stands pleasantly on an acclivity, backed by a ridge of rocks embrowned with firs.

IN this small town reside the provost and canons, who compose the chapter formerly established at Munster; which was removed here, in 1630, on the introduction of the Reformed religion in the valley of Munster. At the extremity of the town is the episcopal palace, built in 1718, by Conrad Baron of Reinach, and bishop of Basle: it commands a fine view of the adjacent country. The bailif, who holds his court in this town, has jurisdiction over the valleys of Delmont and Munster. In criminal proceedings he arrests and examines; and can inflict small penalties for trifling misdemeanors; but in all cases of notoriety, the delinquent

quent is either tried at Porentru, or the bailif's sentence must be confirmed or amended in that supreme tribunal. Civil causes are first adjudged in the provincial courts; from whose decision an appeal lies to the episcopal tribunal at Porentru; and from thence to the imperial chambers of Wetzlar or Vienna. Delmont contains eight hundred inhabitants, who are all Catholics: they have their own magistrates and inferior tribunals.

ABOUT a mile from Delmont I stopped at Corrandelin, a small village in the Catholic district of the valley of Munster, in order to examine an iron foundery belonging to the bishop. The ore is drawn from the valley of Delmont, near the villages of Corou, Wick, Recolens, and Sepres; it is taken from the ground in small pieces, seldom larger than the size of a pea. The director informed me that it is usually found in that state, and very rarely in masses. The largest he ever remembered to have seen, was ten feet long, two thick, and two broad. He added, that the mountains in the neighbourhood abound with ore, which would yield considerable quantities of iron, if sufficient charcoal could be procured for the smelting furnaces. As he was but lately appointed director, he could not give any accurate intelligence concerning the annual quantity of iron smelted in this foundery; but informed me, in general, that the different ores yielded altogether two thirds of pure mineral, the quality whereof was extremely fine, and scarcely inferior to the best iron exported from Sweden.

CORRANDELIN, together with the villages of Chatillon, Roffemaïson, Vellerat, Courchappois, Corbaon, Mervellier,
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and Elay, though connected as to ecclesiastical affairs with the valley of Delmont, form that part of the valley of Munster, which is called the *Catholic*, or *Lower* District. It is denominated the *Catholic* District, because the inhabitants are exclusively of the Romish church; and *Lower* District, because it is situated *unter den felsen*, or *below* the ridge of rocks which separate it from the *Upper*, or *Protestant* District. But before I proceed further, it will be necessary to describe the general divisions of this valley, and the civil and religious immunities of the natives, that you may be enabled to comprehend its complicated topography, and its curious political state, by which, though subject to the bishop of Basle, it is under the protection of the canton of Berne.

THE valley of Munster, or Moitier, extends from the valley of Delmont to Pierre Pertuis; and is included in that part of the bishop's dominions which lie within the German empire. But, as the inhabitants have, for above three hundred years, been in alliance with Berne, and under the protection of that republic, the valley is considered by many authors as forming part of Switzerland. It is divided into two principal districts; the *Catholic* or *Lower* District, which lies at the extremity of the valley of Delmont, and comprises the eight villages above-mentioned; the *Protestant* or *Upper* District, which stretches from the chain of rocks near Corrandelin, to Pierre Pertuis, its southern boundary; and containing, 1. The Greater Valley, or Valley of Tavannes; and 2. The Lesser Valley, which is subdivided into Grand-Val, or the Great-Valley, and the Little Valley, or the Valley of Sornetan.

THE inhabitants of both districts are comburghers with the canton of Berne. The first treaty of comburghership was contracted in 1484. In that year, Berne and the bishop of Basle respectively supporting two candidates for the provostship of Munster; the former marched an army into these parts, took possession of the whole valley, and exacted homage from the inhabitants. These disputes being compromised at the treaty of Corrandelin, Berne restored the valley to the bishop on the following conditions: that the inhabitants should be maintained in all their privileges; continue as comburghers with Berne, under the protection of that republic; remain neuter in case of a war between Berne and the bishop; and follow the standard of Berne, when the latter was engaged in hostilities against any other power. This treaty of comburghership, renewed at different intervals, has excited frequent disputes between Berne and the bishop, and particularly in 1705 and 1711 occasioned an open rupture. These disputes were finally adjusted at the pacification of Arau; when the bishop ratified the treaty of comburghership, confirmed all the rights and immunities of the inhabitants, and consented to the mediation and interference of Berne.

THE affairs of religion excited for some time no less contest between the bishop and Berne than the treaty of comburghership. The reformation being adopted, in 1531, by a considerable number of the inhabitants in the valley of Munster, civil commotions ensued; Berne interfered in behalf of the Protestants, and the bishop protected the antient church

establishment. It was at length, amicably settled between both parties; that the majority of each parish should freely decide, whether the inhabitants should profess the Roman Catholic or the Reformed religion; and that the chapter of Munster should continue to receive the tythes, on condition of discharging the salaries of the Protestant ministers. In consequence of this rational compromise, the eight villages, which now form the *Lower* district, voted for the maintenance of the Catholic religion; and the parishes of the Upper district for the Reformed church. Accordingly the two persuasions were respectively established in these two districts; the chapter retained its estates and tythes, but quitting Munster, where the new doctrines were admitted, retired first to Soleure, and afterwards settled at Delmont: but, as several Protestants and Catholics continued promiscuously to inhabit the two districts, disturbances were occasionally renewed. Nor were the religious differences entirely composed till the peace of Arau; which enjoined, that all the members of the two persuasions should be finally separated; that all the inhabitants of the *Upper* district, who then professed or should hereafter profess the Catholic religion, should retire to Elay; and that in the same manner the Protestants in the *Lower* district should remove to the *Upper* district. Since this period, the most perfect harmony has subsisted between them.

By virtue of the alliance with Berne, that republic annually deposes one of its magistrates to this valley, for the purpose of inquiring if the civil and religious immunities have



In the Valley of Munster.

Published as the Act directs 1825, by T. Cadell, London.

have been preserved inviolate; and an ecclesiastic: the latter, called inspector of the churches in the valley of Munster, examines into the state of ecclesiastical discipline; and distributes among the inhabitants of the *Upper* district catechisms and psalters. Berne also approves the nomination of the ministers to the vacant benefices, some of whom are appointed and paid by the bishop, others by the chapters of Delmont and Bellelay; as the bishop or chapters possess the tythes in the respective parishes.

BUT to return from this digression.—Soon after quitting Corrandelin, I entered the *Protestant* district, through a pass between two rocks, which nearly approach each other, and just leave an opening sufficient for the Birs and the road. This pass leads into a narrow glen, about four miles in length, and in many places almost resembling a subterraneous abyss. The road winds by the side of the impetuous Birs, and at the bottom of two ranges of rocks: these rocks are of white limestone, of inaccessible height; and though in most places absolutely perpendicular, yet are agreeably feathered with trees, and particularly towards their summits, which overhang, and scarcely admit the light of the sun. In the midst of this glen is La Roche, the first Protestant village in the valley of Munster; the houses whereof stand on both sides of the Birs, where the rocks recede a little, and present a gentle slope. On issuing from this glen, we entered a fertile plain encircled by hills, in the midst of which is situated the village of Munster or Moitier: it takes that appellation from the chapter of canons, who upon the reformation, quitted
this

this place of their residence and settled themselves at Delmont.

ABOUT half a mile from Munster we came into another glen, near three miles in length: it is called *Chaluet*, of a similar nature with that which we traversed between Corrandelin and the plain of Munster, but still wilder and more craggy, deeper and more obscure. It is also divided by the Birs, which rushes through it with great impetuosity; and is so narrow, that the road occupies the whole space between the torrent and the mountain, and the wheels of our carriage frequently on one side brushed the rock, and on the other ran close to the precipice which overhangs the river. This causeway, over broken crags and steep precipices, does honour to the prince who carried it into execution. The following inscription, which I observed near a bridge in the midst of this obscure glen, may perhaps seem exaggerated, to a person unacquainted with the natural impediments of the country; but to me, on the spot, appeared strictly consonant to truth.

*Josephus Gulielmus
Ex Rinchnis de Baldenstein
Basiliensum Episcopus Princeps
Viam Veteribus Inclusam
Rupibus et Claustris Montium Ruptis
Birsâ Pontibus Stratâ
Opere Romanis Digno
Aperuit.
Anno. D. M.DCC.LII.*

ALTHOUGH

ALTHOUGH in various parts of Switzerland I had frequently observed the justness of the remark, that in all deep vallies which intersect the mountains, the salient angles on one side alternately correspond with the cavities on the other; and that parallel strata of rock answer to each other, in all directions and at all heights; yet I never saw this fact more strongly exemplified than in the two ridges of limestone that border this glen. They are of a stupendous height; and the strata horizontal, inclined, or almost perpendicular on one side, are exactly similar and of the same thickness on the other: a circumstance, which, joined to the corresponding situation of the angles, seems to prove, that they were formerly united, and have been either rent asunder by some sudden convulsion, or separated by the gradual attrition of the waters. At the extremity of the Chaluët we entered another plain, well cultivated, and agreeably spotted with villages; and arrived towards the close of the evening at Molleray, where we passed the night. The people in these parts appear happy and contented, and are extremely industrious. The greatest part are employed in agriculture; a few, encouraged by their neighbours of Locle and Chaux de Fond, have lately introduced several trades into these mountains; and Belleval, a small neighbouring village, already contains five watchmakers.

FROM Molleray we continued along a fertile plain by the side of the Birs; through several pleasant and well-looking villages, of which Tavannes, in German *Dachfeld*, is the largest. In about two miles we arrived at the extremity of the plain, which is closed by a rock, through which opens
the

the celebrated pass called *Pierre Pertuis*. At the bottom of this rock, the Birs bursts from the ground in several copious springs, and turns two mills within a few paces of its principal source.

Pierre Pertuis is a large arched aperture through a solid rock, about thirty feet long, forty-five broad, and thirty high in the lowest part, which some aver to have been formed by nature, others by art. A Roman inscription over the arch, extremely defaced, has given sufficient employment to the ingenuity of antiquaries. Having seen several fac-similes, greatly differing from each other, I copied it as exactly as the height would permit.

AVMINI AVGS

IM

CTA PER I

OV VM PATER.

IVI COL. HELV.

Of this inscription many solutions have been attempted; but the most probable are the two following:

Numini Augustorum via facta per Titum dunnium Paternam II virum Colon Helvet.—Others read, *per montem durvum Paternus*.

BOTH these solutions imply, that a road was formed through the mountain by Paternus, a duumvir, during the reigns of Marcus Aurelius and Verus. From the latter explanation,



L. Smith del.

J. C. Wilson fecit.

Prime Portus.

Published as the Act directs, 1794, by T. Cadell, London.

planation, *per montem durum*, some antiquarians have endeavoured to prove, that he cut through the rock; and consequently, that the arch is the work of art, not of nature: while others maintain, that it by no means follows, even from this reading, that the rock was pierced by order of Paternus; but merely that the road was carried through the rock*. Not to detain you, however, with fanciful conjectures, I shall only add, that on examining the inscription with attention, the words which antiquarians have supplied, to support their particular systems, are extremely doubtful; and that to me, who observed the arch without partiality or prejudice in favour of any hypothesis, it appeared to have been originally a great cavern, either totally formed by nature, or if assisted by art, that only a small part of its southern extremity was opened by the labour of man.

THE southern extremity of *Pierre Pertuis* leads into the valley of St. Imier, sometimes called Enguel, which comprises the bishop's dominions lying in Switzerland. The inhabitants are Protestants, and governed by a bailif appointed by the bishop. He resides at Courtelari; but his authority is exceedingly limited by the various privileges, both civil and religious, possessed by the natives. Their religious immunities confirmed by the bishop, are guaranteed by the four Reformed cantons. The whole district lies within the Jura mountains; and is fertile in pasture. The inhabitants are industrious. On arriving on the extremity of

* The reader, who wishes to examine this subject with attention, is referred to Schæfflin's *Alsatia Illustrata*, and to a dissertation on the subject published by Buxtorf.

mount Jura, a glorious prospect bursts upon the view, commanding the undulating country fertilised by the Aar, backed by the majestic chain of Alps extending beyond the frontiers of Savoy. Descending gently into the plain with this glorious prospect before us, and which was heightened by the luminous splendour of the mid-day sun, we crossed the Sure, and finished our delightful expedition at Bienne. From Pierre Pertuis to Bienne, a superb causeway is carried along a continual descent for about six miles; it winds through thick forests, and over-hangs the deep abyss, in which the Sure, a turbid and impetuous torrent, precipitates its course, always roaring, and frequently unseen, in its rocky channel.

L E T T E R 19.

THE TOWN OF BIENNE.

THE small territory of Bienne, containing scarcely six thousand inhabitants, lies between the lake and a chain of the Jura mountains: it is surrounded by the cantons of Berne and Soleure, the bishopric of Basle, and the principality of Neuchatel. The town is situated at the foot of the Jura, and at a little distance from the lake; which is here about nine miles in length, and four in breadth: the borders are pleasing and picturesque; and the town of Nidau forms a very beautiful object upon its eastern side.

THE bishop of Basle is the sovereign of this little state: his power, formerly considerable, is at present exceedingly limited. Indeed the constitution of Bienne is of so very peculiar a nature, that I know not well by what name it can be distinguished: it cannot properly be called either a limited monarchy, or an independent republic; but seems rather to be a mixed government, partaking somewhat of both. The bishop of Basle receives, upon his promotion to the see, the homage of the citizens and militia of this town, with all the apparent ceremonials of the most absolute submission; but at the same time, he confirms, in the strongest manner, all their privileges and franchises. He is represented by a mayor of his own appointing, whose power and office

confist in convoking, and prefiding in, the Little Council, as the chief court of juftice; in collecting the fuffrages, and declaring the fentence; but without giving any vote himfelf. And, although juftice is carried on, and executed, in the name of the bifhop, yet neither that prince nor the mayor, has the prerogative of pardoning criminals, or of mitigating the fentence. All caufes, civil as well as criminal, are brought before this council in the firft inftance; and in more important proceedings, an appeal lies to the Sovereign Council: in both cafes, each party choofes a member of the council to act as his advocate; which office he is obliged to difcharge without fee or recompence.

THE fovereign's revenue amounts only to about £. 300 a year: but, mean as his civil lift is, it is ftill more confiderable than his power; for he does not poffefs the leaft fhare of the adminiftration. The legislative authority refides in the Great and Little Councils combined: the former confifts of forty members; and the latter, in which the executive power is vefted, is compofed of twenty-four; the members of each muft be married men. Both thefe councils elect their refpective members; and fo far the conftitution is entirely ariftocratical. The burgomafter, or chief of the regency, is chofen by the two councils, and prefides at their meetings. He continues in office during life; in which, however, he, as well as the feveral magiftrates, muft be confirmed annually by the two councils. The falaries annexed to thefe pofts are exceedingly moderate: and, indeed, the general expences of government are fo very fmall, that, in proportion to them, its revenues may well be confidered as abundantly ample.

It

It appears, therefore, that this Protestant republic, notwithstanding the sovereignty of its Catholic bishop, enjoys in the fullest extent the power of imposing taxes, contracting alliances, declaring war and peace; and, in short, of exercising every other act of absolute and independent legislation. This singular constitution is guaranteed by Berne, Friburgh, and Soleure, with whom the town is closely allied; in consequence of which, it becomes a member of the Helvetic Confederacy. And, what is somewhat remarkable, this alliance between those cantons and the town of Bienne, is of a superior nature to that of the same cantons with the bishop of Basle: for the town enjoys the right of sending deputies to every general diet, ordinary and extraordinary; whereas the bishop does not possess the same privilege. The language of the country is a provincial German; but, as the territory borders upon the principality of Neuchatel, the inhabitants speak also a kind of corrupted French. They are a very active and industrious people: several manufactures are established in the town, which, considering its size, carries on a tolerable trade.

I HAVE often had occasion to observe, that the common people of Switzerland are far more intelligent than the same rank of men in any other country. Accordingly, I invited last night my landlord of the Crown inn to sup with me; and found him by no means disposed to be a silent guest. He gave me a long account of the late ceremony, when the citizens did homage to their new bishop. I was pleased to hear him expatiate, with all the enthusiasm of national pride,
upon

upon the beauty and grandeur of the scene; the magnificence of the procession; the number of spectators, as well strangers as natives, who were assembled; together with the entertainments and balls that were given upon that occasion. By the lofty terms in which he spoke of this procession, you would have imagined, at least, that he had been describing the coronation of the emperor of Germany, or the king of France: and, in truth, to an inhabitant of Bienne, whose government is administered without the least degree of external pomp, and where luxury has as yet made but little progress, the ceremony must have appeared a very striking spectacle. My host's narrative recalled to my remembrance the accounts of those antient feudal sovereignties, when the great vassals of the crown did homage to their liege lord; and, while in *terms* they promised him unlimited obedience, maintained, in *fact*, every essential of independence.

I HAVE just been amusing myself in some pleasant walks, that lie by the side of the lake, which is here prettily skirted with country houses. In my way I passed over a plain between the town and the lake, which the Sovereign Council, by a kind of agrarian law that does honour to the legislature, lately allotted, in distinct portions, to each burgher, for his own particular use: it is entirely laid out in little kitchen-gardens. The general government, indeed, of this miniature state, is well administered. It has lately adopted the liberal policy of conferring the burghership at an easy rate: a wise regulation, which cannot fail of increasing the population of the town, and extending its commerce.

I KNOW

I KNOW your sentiments much too well, my dear sir, to apologize for calling your attention in the present instance, as in some others, to these diminutive commonwealths. The various modifications of government, into which civil society is divided, is a speculation that will always afford matter both of entertainment and reflection, to a philosophic mind: and I am persuaded, that you consider the meanest spot of this globe consecrated by liberty, to be an object worthy, not only of your curiosity, but your veneration.

I am, &c.

LETTER

L E T T E R 20.

THE TOWN AND CANTON OF SOLEURE—DETAIL OF
THE GOVERNMENT—ANTIEN AND NEW BURGH-
ERS—ASSEMBLY OF THE ROSENGARTEN.

THE direct road from Basle to Soleure lies through the midst of the Jura mountains, along the romantic vale of Balstal, remarkable for its richness and fertility: and though the country is in general exceedingly rocky, yet in many places it is highly cultivated. The road from Bienne to Soleure traverses a well-cultivated valley, watered by the Aar, at the foot of a piked ridge, which forms a branch of mount Jura; its sides, from the bottom to the summit, are so embrowned with overhanging forests of pine and fir, as to exhibit only occasional intervals of naked rock, remains of torrents, and a few solitary specks of pasture, and are so steep as, within the extent of five leagues, scarcely to display the appearance of a single house, or a trace of the slightest foot-way. Near Soleure this chain of the Jura, called *Weissenstein*, abruptly diminishes in height, becomes gradually sloping, and is checkered to its very summit with fields of corn and pasture.

SOLEURE is pleasantly situated upon the Aar, which here expands its banks and opens into a fine and broad river. I will not exert the privilege of a traveller, and tell you, what some extravagant antiquaries do not scruple to assert, that

Soleure

Soleure was built by the patriarch Abraham; but you will have no difficulty, perhaps, in believing what others maintain, that it was one of the twelve towns which were destroyed upon the emigration of the original inhabitants into Gaul. It appears also probable, from a great number of inscriptions, medals, and other antiquities, which have been found in the neighbourhood, that it was re-peopled by a Roman colony; and it certainly was a Roman fortification, as its antient appellation, *Castrum Salodurense*, necessarily implies. Little more of its history is known, during that period of ignorance and barbarism which succeeded the downfall of the Roman empire, than that it was sacked and destroyed by those northern nations, who over-ran the greatest part of Europe. From the time of its re-establishment, until its admission into the Helvetic Confederacy in 1481, its state was similar to that of many other imperial towns, which acquired a gradual accession of territory, and after various struggles finally secured to themselves an absolute independence.

SOLEURE is a small but extremely neat town, and is surrounded by regular stone fortifications, erected in the beginning of the present century; these walls enclose a circumference of scarcely more than fifty square acres, and, including the suburbs, contain about four thousand souls. Among the most remarkable objects of curiosity in the town is the new church of St. Urs, which was begun in 1762, and finished in 1772. It is a noble edifice, of whitish-grey stone, drawn from the neighbouring quarries, which admits a polish, and is a species of rude marble. The lower part of the building is of the Corinthian, the upper of the Composite order: the

façade, which consists of a portico, surmounted by an elegant tower, presents itself finely at the extremity of the principal street. Pizoni was the architect, and the expence amounted to at least £. 80,000; a considerable sum for so small a republic, whose revenues scarcely surpass £. 12,000 *per annum*. The interior is simple yet elegant, and decorated with a few modern paintings of inconsiderable merit; of which the most esteemed is the Last Supper, by Corvi, a Roman artist. A picture by Rubens and his scholars, in the church of the Cordeliers, and one by Le Sueur, in that of the Capuchins, deserve perhaps to be noticed by the traveller, who is fond of the fine arts. The town-house is not in itself worthy of observation, but is mentioned only as being the place of meeting for the Great Council and Senate. The public prison, newly constructed, is a solid edifice of stone, and is well adapted to the purpose of the building; the prisoners being confined in separate cells. Although the penal laws are severe in theory, yet the judicial sentences, in criminal affairs, are so remarkably mild, that a prisoner, on his acquittal, wrote the following inscription on the wall of his cell: "He who is inclined to rob, and escape hanging, let him rob in the canton of Soleure."

THE public library deserves to be mentioned, not for the number or rarity of the volumes, but for the literary zeal of the Abbé Herman, canon of the cathedral, to whom it owes its origin. On my first visit to this town, in 1776, there was no public collection of books; but a few years ago that ingenious ecclesiastic amassed about four hundred volumes from his own and his friends stock, obtained from government
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an apartment in the town-house, where he deposited them, and requested to be appointed librarian, but without a salary. His petition being granted, he continued to augment his little collection; and from this small beginning has increased it already to eleven thousand books, among which are above a hundred and fifty printed in the fifteenth century. At the two extremities of the room are inscribed the names of the benefactors to this library. As yet there is no fund established for the support or augmentation of this collection. The Abbé has also begun to form a cabinet of medals; which, though at present extremely small, will increase like the library. He pointed out to me a very rare medal, that was discovered in digging the foundation for the new cathedral. It is in bronze, of the middle size. On one side is the head of Septimius Severus, with the following inscription, *L. Septimius Severus Pius Aug. P. M. Tr. P. xviii. Cos. iii. P. P.* On the reverse, a figure sitting, before it a prow of a ship, and a genius or little boy. Great merit is due to the Abbé for having given birth to this collection, at first alone and unsupported, and in so disinterested a manner, as his income does not exceed £. 60 *per annum*; and in a town where literature is not much encouraged. This learned ecclesiastic is now employed in writing an account of Soleure at the period of the Reformation; and is collecting ample materials for a complete history of the canton. With respect to natural history, the only cabinet in the town is that formed by Senator Wallier: it is a small collection, but well chosen, and particularly interesting to the naturalist who travels into these parts, because the ingenious collector has

chiefly confined himself to the minerals and petrifications of the canton.

THE circumjacent country is exceedingly pleasing and diversified, and exhibits several points of view, which are as agreeable as wild, and as pleasing as romantic. Among these we were particularly struck with the situation of the hermitage called des Croix, about half a mile from the town, near the stone quarry: it is a most agreeable recess at the extremity of a small wood, and between two ridges of bare perpendicular rocks, watered by a lively stream; one extremity is closed by a small wood, and the other opens into fertile grounds backed by the dark Jura. Among the villas, in the environs, remarkable for their position, may be mentioned Ricaberg, built by Mr. de Vigur; it stands at the bottom of a gentle hill, declining towards the winding Aar, and commands a view of Soleure, half hid by the intervening trees; and Bleikenberg, belonging to Major de Roll, situated amid waving grounds divided into enclosures, similar to the fertile counties of England; the dark Jura rising like the highlands of Scotland; and at a distance the sublime alps, which characterise this romantic country.

THE canton of Soleure, which holds the eleventh rank in the Helvetic Confederacy, stretches partly through the plain, and partly along the chains of the Jura, and contains about 50,000 souls, including the inhabitants of the capital. The soil is, for the most part, exceedingly fertile in corn, and those districts which lie within the Jura, abound in excellent pastures.



Hermitage near Stour.

Engraved as the first design 1794, by T. Smith, London.

pastures. The trade, both of the town and of the canton, is of little value, although they are very commodiously situated for an extensive commerce. It is divided into eleven districts or bailliages, called Interior and Exterior; the former are governed by bailifs, who are senators, and remain in the towns: the latter, by bailifs drawn from the members of the Great Council, who reside in their bailliages.

THE following is a list of the bailliages, with their average annual value; the four first are interior, the remainder exterior.

Buckeberg	£. 166	Beckburgh	£. 750
Kriegfetten	- 146	Goefgen	- - 500
Laeberen, or	} 83	Olten	- - 333
Grenche		Dorneck	- - 834
Flamenthal	- 62	Tierstein	- - 417
Falkenstein	- 546	Gilgenberg	- 375

THE inhabitants of the canton are Catholics, excepting those in the bailliage of Buckeberg, who profess the Reformed religion. In spiritual affairs, the Catholics depend on three bishops: the greatest part of the capital, the bailliages of Laeberen and Flamenthal, are in the diocese of the bishop of Lausanne, resident at Friburg; the remainder of the capital, the bailliage of Kriegfetten, and the villages in the bailliage of Olten, in that of the bishop of Constance; while the other bailliages, and the town of Olten, depend on the bishop of Basle. But neither of these bishops
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can issue any ordinance, or even visit their dioceses, without the approbation of the Senate. There are two chapters in this canton; one at Soleure, founded, in 930, by Queen Bertha, widow of Rhodolph II. King of Burgundy, is composed of a provost, whose salary amounts to £. 360 *per annum*; and of eleven canons, each of whom enjoys a revenue of £. 160. The provost is chosen by the Senate, and the canons are appointed alternately by the Pope and Senate. The other chapter, of Schœnenwerth, founded by the antient counts of Falkenstein, consists of a provost and five canons, nominated by the Senate. The annual salary of the provost is £. 125, and of each canon £. 100. There are also one abbey of Benedictines, four convents, and three nunneries: the revenues of these religious houses amount to £. 2,250. The principal charitable institutions are, an hospital at Soleure, and another at Olten, for the reception of burghers, subjects, and foreigners; the foundation of Thurigan, for old persons of both sexes, belonging to the burghership; a foundling hospital for orphans, and for children of poor burghers; and the hospital of St. Catharine, for the insane and incurables.

THE only persons in the canton of Soleure, who profess the Reformed religion, are those who inhabit the bailliage of Buckegberg. In ecclesiastical affairs, the inhabitants, though subject to Soleure, are under the protection of Berne. Formerly this complication of political and religious interests created frequent misunderstandings between the two cantons, but matters were amicably and finally adjusted, on the 18th of November 1681, at the treaty of Winingen. The inhabitants

inhabitants take the oath of fidelity, every third year, to the government of Soleure; but if aggrieved in their religious establishment, can have recourse to Berne. The Senate of Berne nominates to the vacant benefices, but the priests are under the necessity of obtaining the confirmation of the chapter of Soleure. A deputy from Berne presents the new minister to his parishioners; but the bailif is obliged to be present at this ceremony, as deputy from the republic of Soleure. Berne enjoys also supreme jurisdiction in criminal affairs. If a criminal is arrested for any capital offence, he is tried by the bailif of Buckegberg, and the jury of the bailliage: and, if condemned to death, he is delivered for execution to Berne, provided that republic defrays the expence of the trial. Soleure enjoys all the other rights of sovereignty; such as the power of levying taxes, appeals in the last resort; and even decides all matrimonial and ecclesiastical concerns, with this proviso, that the decision shall be regulated according to the articles of the treaty of Winingen. Among the natives in the canton, several inhabiting the bailliages of Thierstein and Gildenberg, were serfs, but, in 1785, their servitude, so contrary to the principles of that equal liberty which pervades this country, was abolished, to the honour of the present government.

THE canton furnishes France with two companies for the Swiss guards, and several companies in the different marching regiments, according to the capitulation concluded between the King of France and the Catholic cantons, and their co-allies, in 1764, for the term of twenty-five years. It has also a regiment in the Spanish service; of which the
colonel

colonel and the companies of fusileers can be filled only by the *antient* burghers. With respect to the militia of the canton, all the subjects, from the age of fifteen to that of sixty, are enrolled into six regiments, forming altogether about 8000 men, exclusive of 240 dragoons, and the corps of artillery, amounting to 600 men. The colonel of each regiment is always a senator, and the major a member of the Great Council, who is usually an officer retired from foreign service; the captains are either members of the Great Council or *antient* burghers; the first lieutenants are usually *antient* burghers, while the rank of second lieutenants and ensigns is usually filled by the principal peasants.

THE militia are assembled and reviewed in May and September; and in the spring and autumn are exercised in their respective villages by the under-lieutenants and ensigns. According to a plan of defence, regulated in 1668, between the members of the Helvetic Confederacy, the canton of Soleure is bound to furnish 600 for its first contingency; for this supply 100 men, together with officers, are annually selected from each of the six regiments, who are to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning. In case of necessity, this contingency may be doubled or tripled in the same manner. The burghers are incorporated in the company of fusileers, and exercise themselves on Sundays and saints days, after divine service, by shooting at marks: government furnishes powder and ball, and distributes prizes to the best marksmen. The remaining inhabitants of the capital and environs, who are not burghers, form a separate body, commanded by the captain
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of the town: they are also occasionally exercised, and mount guard on the day of St. John the Baptist, when the *Rosengarten*, or the general meeting of the burghers, is assembled.

THE sovereign power resides in the Great Council, which, comprizing the Senate or Little Council of thirty-six, consists of a hundred and two members, chosen by the Senate, in equal proportions, from the eleven tribes or companies into which the *antient* burghers are distributed: and in all instances the new member is taken from the company to which the last member belonged.

THE prerogatives of the Great Council are, to enact and abrogate laws; to explain any obscure parts of the constitution; and even make alterations in the form of government, should the circumstances require it; to levy taxes; to declare war and conclude peace; to contract alliances; to receive appeals in criminal causes from the burghers of the capital; and in civil processes, above the sum of 100 Swiss livres, or £.6. 3s.; to confer the *new* burghership; to elect the treasurer, or the fourth chief of the republic, from the antient eleven senators; to nominate to the seven exterior bailliages, and to the four Italian governments of Lugano, Locarno, Mendrisio, and Valmaggia, when the turn of appointing to those governments belongs to Soleure; to choose the deputies for the diet of Frauenfeld, and those for any extraordinary meetings of the Helvetic Confederacy; though in both these cases it is the custom to appoint a senator, and usually either of the four chiefs, the reigning advoyer excepted, who is

not permitted to be absent during the year of his administration.

THERE are generally a few supernumerary members in the Great Council, which circumstance proceeds from the method of appointing the bailifs. On the nomination of a bailif, his seat in the Great Council being esteemed vacant, is on the next day filled up by a member of the same company in which he is inscribed. At the conclusion of his bailliage he again takes his seat, preserving his antient rank, though considered as a supernumerary, until one of the six members of his tribe makes a vacancy. The qualifications for a reception into the Great Council are, that the candidate shall be twenty years of age, an *antient* burgher, and member of the same tribe in which the vacancy happens: and with respect to the last-mentioned qualification, it is necessary that the candidate, if inscribed in a company different from that of his father, must, according to a decree passed in 1764, have been a member of that company during a full year.

THE Great Council assembles ordinarily once every month; and extraordinarily, on being convened by the Senate.

THE Senate, or Little Council, a constituent part of the Great Council, is composed of the two advoyers or chiefs of the republic, who annually alternate; the chancellor or secretary of state, who has no vote either in the Senate or Great Council; and thirty-three senators drawn from the remaining sixty-six members of the Great Council, in equal proportion
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from the eleven tribes. The appointment and annual confirmation of the advoyers and banneret by the assembly of burghers, as well as the confirmation of the senators and members of the Great Council, in their several charges, will be hereafter described, under the article of *Rosengarten*.

THE thirty-three senators who, in conjunction with the two advoyers and chancellor, form the Senate, are divided into eleven seniors, and twenty-two juniors. From the eleven seniors the four principal magistrates are always chosen, the two advoyers, the banneret, and treasurer. Upon a vacancy among the eleven, the right of election, though said to reside in the twenty-three juniors, is always exercised according to seniority: the most antient in rank among the three junior counsellors, who are of the same tribe to which the late member belonged, presents himself of course, and is immediately appointed, or rather confirmed, by the twenty-three juniors. Upon the death or promotion of one among the latter, his place is immediately filled up by the two advoyers and eleven seniors. The Senate is entrusted with the executive power, and with the care of the police; has supreme and final jurisdiction in all criminal causes, those only excepted in which a burgher of the capital is concerned, who may appeal from their decision to the Great Council; and gives judgment in all civil processes not exceeding the value of a hundred Swiss livres. The Senate convokes the Great Council; examines and digests all affairs before they are laid before that supreme assembly; fills up the vacant places therein; and in their own body; either directly or indirectly,

nominates to almost all the important charges of the republic; appoints to the principal ecclesiastical benefices; receives all appeals, in the first instance, from the inferior courts of justice; judges all civil causes in the last resort, whose value does not exceed a certain sum; has supreme and final jurisdiction over all criminal affairs, excepting those which concern the burghers of the capital. The qualifications of a senator are, that he shall be twenty-four years of age, a member of the Great Council, and drawn from the same company to which the last senator belonged. This body assembles three times in the week, and extraordinarily, as often as occasion requires; and it is convoked by the reigning advoyer. The salaries of the senators are as follows;

The reigning advoyer, about	—	—	£. 363
The advoyer out of office	—	—	137 10
Senior senator	—	—	46
Chancellor	—	—	208
Attorney General, including his salary of senator			100
Junior senator	—	—	37 10

GOVERNMENT draws its principal revenues, which do not amount to more than £. 12,500 *per ann.* from the following sources. 1. A tax called the tax on fortifications; laid on the funds of the tribes and monasteries in the town, and on those of parishes in the bailliages. 2. Tythes, and *rentes foncieres* belonging to the state. 3. Tolls. 4. Excise on wine. 5. Interest of money placed out in the canton and in foreign countries. 6. Monopoly of salt. 7. Revenues from

from the bailliages. 8. Subsidy from France; about £.1108. 9. Sundry small sources, such as demefnes, estates, salaries of vacant benefices, &c.

THE principal departments of government are, 1. The tribunals; which comprise the inferior courts of justice, and the Secret Council, consisting of seven members, namely, the two advoyers, the banneret, the treasurer, the first senior senator, the chancellor, and the attorney-general; in case any of these persons should be absent, their places are supplied by the antient senators, according to seniority. 2. The boards of war. 3. Of those rights, called *droits regaliens*. 4. For finances, agriculture, and public buildings. 5. For the police. 6. For ecclesiastical affairs, charitable institutions, and schools.

THE burghers of Soleure are divided into *antient* and *new*; the former of whom are alone capable of being elected members of the Great Council, or of enjoying any share in the administration of affairs. The origin of this distinction is to be dated from the year 1681, from the following causes. Several foreign families, which settled at Soleure and obtained the right of burghership, being admitted into the Great Council, gave umbrage to those antient and illustrious families, whose ancestors had, by their valour and prudence, laid the foundation of the republic. In order to prevent the farther participation of honours and emoluments, to which they conceived themselves solely entitled, the Great Council issued an edict, in 1681, that those families only, which at that epoch enjoyed the rights of burghership, should be exclusively

clusively qualified to hold any office of government; and that, for the future, no person should be admitted to that right, until the families then existing should be reduced to twenty-five. It was at the same time enacted, that these families and their descendants should be distinguished by the name of *antient* burghers, and that those, who from that period should be received into the burghership, should be called *new* burghers. It was also added, that any burgher who should make any proposition contrary to this law, should be banished from the canton, and that his goods should be confiscated,

BESIDE the exclusive privilege of being entitled to any office of government, the *antient* burghers enjoy also the right of being solely appointed canons in the chapters of Soleure and Schoenenworth, and of holding any ecclesiastical benefice in the gift of the Senate. But as there are at present a great deficiency of clergymen among the *antient* burghers, it will probably soon be thought necessary to dispense with the law on this article, and to permit the *new* burghers, and every subject of the canton, to be candidates for vacant livings. There are about eighty-five families who possess the right of *antient* burghership, and of these about thirty-four of the most illustrious, supply the members of the Great Council, and fill all the various departments of government.

THE rights of the *new* burghers consist in nominating and annually confirming the advoyer, the banneret, and *grand sautier*, or lieutenant of the police; but, as they al-
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ways choose those persons, who are selected by the Senate, as they exercise this privilege in conjunction with the *antient* burghers, and as, by the edict of 1681, they must retire from the assembly if there should be any difficulty or opposition; this right of election may be considered as little more than a mere formality. In all other instances, excepting in those concerns which relate to government, the *new* burghers enjoy the same privilege as the *antient* burghers; such as freedom of trade and commerce; of being proprietors of houses and land in the capital and its district. They are also entitled to hold such ecclesiastical benefices as are in the gift of the chapters and of individuals.

THE burghers, both *antient* and *new*, are distributed into eleven tribes or companies, each whereof furnishes three senators and six members of the Great Council. Every person may choose the company into which he inscribes his name; but having once inscribed himself, he cannot change it. For the purpose of obtaining a place as soon as possible in the government, a young noble selects that company in which there is soon likely to be a vacancy; but if he fixes upon one different from that in which his father is incorporated, he must have been received a member during a whole year, before he can be a candidate for admission into the Great Council.

THE general assembly of *antient* and *new* burghers, called *Rosengarten*, which meets on St. John the Baptist's day, for the purpose of electing or confirming the charges of advoyer, banneret, and *grand sautier*, is a ceremony which

which deserves to be described for its singularity; particularly as it will convey to you some idea of those annual elections, or rather confirmations, of the principal officers, which take place in most of these aristocratical states. This assembly is held in the church of the Cordeliers, and is denominated *Rosengarten*, or Garden of Roses; either because a nosegay of flowers, which every burgher carries in his hand, was formerly composed of roses; or, as others pretend, because this meeting used to be convened in the garden of the Cordeliers, which is said to have been called the Garden of Roses. But, instead of searching into fanciful etymologies, I shall describe what passes at this annual meeting.

ABOUT fix in the morning, the advoyer out of office, the senators, members of the Great Council, and the *antient* and *new* burghers, assemble in their respective companies. After the repetition of certain signals, the reigning advoyer, accompanied by the chancellor, the secretary of the finances, and several other officers of state, repair, with drums beating and trumpets founding, from the town-house to the church of the Cordeliers; where, after presenting his offering upon the altar of the Virgin, he seats himself on a throne, which is placed near the altar. Soon afterwards the senators and remaining members of the Great Council make their appearance at the head of their respective tribes; and having presented their offerings, keep the same rank and stations, which they maintained on entering the church; the advoyer, out of office excepted, who places himself near his colleague on the throne. At the conclusion of mass accompanied with music, all but the burghers retire, and the
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doors of the church are closed. The advoyer, with his scepter in his hand, pronounces an harangue; then delivering up the scepter and seals, resigns his dignity, and receives the thanks of the assembly, by the mouth of the attorney-general, for his zeal and attention during the year of his government. Next follow, in the same manner, the resignations of the banneret and of the attorney-general; the former of whom is thanked, in the name of the assembly, by the attorney-general, and the latter by the advoyer who has just resigned.

THIS ceremony being finished, the two advoyers, bannerets, attorney-general, and antient senators, retire from the choir to another part of the church; and the chancellor summoning the junior senators into the choir, reads over the name of each antient senator, and of the attorney-general, and demands, if the junior senators are pleased to confirm them in their charges for another year. This approbation being obtained, the chancellor and junior senators repair to the assembly in the body of the church, where the chancellor reads over the names of the senior senators and attorney-general confirmed by the juniors, and demands the approbation of the whole assembly of burghers. Upon this, the advoyer who has just resigned, and all the senators, except the advoyer out of office and the banneret, come into the church, and take their respective oaths. The chancellor then acquainting the assembly, that they must proceed to the election of the reigning advoyer; the advoyer, who has just resigned, proposes his colleague: the officer of state, called *Grand Sautier*, cries out, " Let all those who choose to elect

“ the right noble A. B. the reigning advoyer, hold up their hands under oath;” and immediately informing the advoyer of his election, the latter comes into the church, takes the oath from the chancellor, and receives the oath from the *Grand Sautier*. The election of the banneret is made in the same manner: the same person, who had just resigned his office, being proposed to the assembly by the reigning advoyer, and accepted, gives his hand to the reigning advoyer, as he never takes the oath but in time of war. The *grand sautier* then retiring, is proposed and recommended by the reigning advoyer, and re-entering the church, he also takes the oath to government.

AT the end of these elections, several decrees of the Great Council are read, and particularly that which relates to the right of *antient* burghership, and the election of the advoyer, banneret, and *grand sautier*; by which it is enacted, that in case any opposition should be made to the regular order of appointment, the *new* burghers shall retire from the assembly, and the election be vested solely in the *antient* burghers. The same magistrates are always re-elected or confirmed in their several places: the advoyer out of office is nominated reigning advoyer; on the death of either of the advoyers, the banneret is of course appointed to the vacant office, and is succeeded by the treasurer, only undergoing the formality of a nomination.

AT the conclusion of this ceremony, the reigning advoyer, at the head of the Senate, passes through two lines of troops under arms to the town-house, where the first magistrate

trate and the antient senators confirm the junior senators; after which he returns to his own house, accompanied by the Senate and members of the Great Council, and is complimented, first by the banneret, and afterwards by the chancellor.

FROM the consideration of this detail we may conclude, that those authors have erred who call the government of Soleure aristo-democratical, for it is certainly a most complete aristocracy: inasmuch as the supreme government resides in the Great Council, the members whereof are exclusively taken from the *antient* burghers; as there are only eighty-one families which enjoy that right, and no more can be added until they are reduced to twenty-five; as of these scarcely more than thirty enjoy any share in the government; and lastly, as the election and annual confirmation of the principal magistrates is confined to the *antient* burghers, if there should be any opposition in the general assembly called Rosengarten. The government, however, under whatsoever title it may be classed, is mild and equitable; and the people are tranquil and contented.

L E T T E R 21.

TREATIES WITH FRANCE—REFLECTIONS ON FOREIGN SERVICE.

THE French embassador to the Helvetic body resides in Soleure, and distributes those annual pensions which the king his master has stipulated by treaty to pay to the Catholic cantons. Louis the Eleventh was the first French monarch who employed Swiss troops; and granted subsidies to the states, which have since been considerably augmented by his successors. The perpetual alliance which Francis the First concluded with the Swiss cantons, soon after the battle of Marignano, is considered as the basis of every subsequent treaty between the two contracting powers. Several of that king's successors derived considerable advantages from the Swiss infantry in their service: they aided Henry the Fourth in establishing himself upon the throne of his ancestors; and assisted both Louis the Thirteenth and his son, in the several wars in which they were engaged. No troops indeed have ever been more justly distinguished for their fidelity, valour, and excellent discipline.

THE general alliance between France and the whole Helvetic union, ratified by Louis the Fourteenth in 1663, was to remain in force during the joint lives of that monarch, and his son the dauphin, and for eight years after the death of either. Towards the end of his reign, when Louis, on account

count of his son's death, proposed to renew the treaty in his own and his successor's name, the Protestant cantons refused their consent: and it was concluded only with the Catholic cantons, and the republic of the Vallais.

THIS alliance differed from the former treaties in the following very essential articles: It stipulated that, if the kingdom of France should be invaded, the contracting republics should permit an additional levy to be raised at his majesty's expence, not exceeding sixteen thousand men; that if the Helvetic body, or any particular canton, should be attacked by a foreign power, the king engaged to assist them with as many forces as should be judged necessary: and finally, that if any dissensions should arise between the contracting cantons, his majesty should, at the request of the aggrieved party, try all gentle methods of effecting a reconciliation; but if these should fail, the king agreed, both in his own name, and in that of his successor, to compel the aggressor to abide by the treaties concluded between the cantons and their allies. This last article, as it seemed, in some measure, to authorize the interference of the king of France with the politics of Switzerland, appeared dangerous to many of the Swiss, and inconsistent with that absolute independence, which they had hitherto prized above all other advantages.

FRANCE having long in vain attempted to persuade the Protestant cantons to accede to the alliance, that a general treaty with the whole Helvetic body might be renewed, at length, after much opposition and repeated negotiations, succeeded in effecting the measure. This important league was

was concluded at Soleure in May 1777, between the king of France on one side, and the thirteen cantons and their allies on the other, to continue in force during fifty years. By this treaty it is agreed, that if the kingdom of France should be invaded, the cantons and their allies shall furnish an additional levy of six thousand men; and if the cantons, or any of their allies, should be attacked, the king, if required, engages to furnish them, at his own expence, with such succours as may be deemed necessary. That article of the treaty with the Catholic cantons in 1715, which related to the mediation of the king, if any disputes should arise between the thirteen cantons, is very properly and wisely omitted.

BEFORE this alliance, none of the Protestant states received any pensions from France: but by the sixteenth article, the Protestants of Glarus and Appenzel, and the town of Bienne, have agreed to accept *les argents de paix et d'alliance*, as these subsidies are here called. The acceptance of pensions derogates greatly from that spirit of absolute independence, which all the Protestant cantons and states of Switzerland have hitherto affected to profess; and it would have reflected much greater honour on the Swiss nation, if the whole body had imitated Zurich, Berne, Basle, and Schaffhausen, in forming the league upon terms of perfect equality, and rejecting the proffered pensions, which give an air of venality to their treaties with France.

It has long been a controverted question, whether Switzerland gains or loses by furnishing, according to the tenor of her alliance with France, Sardinia, Naples, and Holland, such

such numbers of her natives to serve in foreign armies. That the fidelity of these troops is so well recognised, as to be chosen to be the life-guards of several sovereigns, is a circumstance which undoubtedly redounds much to the honour of the national character; but, on the other hand, to traffic with the blood of subjects, and, for paltry subsidies, to fight the battle of any king, in any cause, seems to betray a mercenary spirit, uncontrouled by considerations of justice and humanity. It has been urged, that if Switzerland did not furnish these supplies to foreign nations, she would be over-stocked with inhabitants; and that the natives would be obliged, like the northern hives of old, to emigrate for subsistence: for in many parts there is no commerce, and the mountainous tracts cannot supply sufficient provision for such a numerous people. In reply to this reasoning, it may be alledged, that the Swiss do not use all the resources in their power: commerce might be more generally cultivated and encouraged; as there is no part of Switzerland far removed from the principal rivers and great lakes, most of which have a direct communication with the sea.

BUT, to be convinced that they have not exhausted all the advantages to which they might resort, let them look back on antient Greece, and the immense populousness in so confined a country; or, what is more open to their observation, let them consider the present state of the United Provinces, and the abundance which those industrious people enjoy on a tract of land snatched from an element perpetually reclaiming its prior occupancy. But the Swiss need not be reminded of antient or foreign examples: Geneva and St. Gallen

Gallen are, for their extent, exceedingly populous; and yet the natural productions of their lands are by no means sufficient to support all the inhabitants. Appenzel and Vallengin are entirely mountainous; nevertheless both those districts are remarkably well peopled, and derive, by means of commerce and industry, all the necessaries of life in great plenty. Indeed Switzerland is so far from being overstocked with people, that in most of the great towns there is a manifest deficiency of inhabitants; and in several parts of their country, hands are frequently wanting for the common purposes of agriculture.

THESE reflections seem to prove the mistaken policy of Switzerland, in letting out her troops to foreign states. On the contrary, many circumstances may be alledged in its favour. This practice has tended to keep up the military spirit of the Swiss, even during a state of profound peace, which has now continued, with few interruptions, for three hundred years. The several cantons not only have in constant reserve, and without the least expence, a body of well-disciplined forces, which they can recal at a moment's warning; but it becomes the interest, for that reason, of those foreign powers, whom they furnish with men, not to foment any divisions among them, which might render the presence of their troops necessary at home. Add to this, that the privileges which the Swiss enjoy in France, and the very advantageous articles, relating to commerce, secured to them in all their treaties, seem to strengthen the argument for continuing their connections of this kind with that kingdom. This argument, however, would be more conclusive, if

if those privileges were still preserved in the same latitude as was granted by the ninth article of the Perpetual Peace concluded with Francis I. in 1516, and confirmed by several successive treaties. But the case is far otherwise. These immunities have been gradually and almost imperceptibly violated: the Swiss merchants were subjected to the poll-tax; and fresh duties, contrary to the tenor of their rights, were imposed on their merchandise. During the administration of the Duke d'Aiguillon, the Swiss complaining of these infractions; a negociation was begun at Soleure with the French embassador, which produced, however, no other effect than a short letter from the minister, declining, in the most positive manner, to redress the grievances, though founded on the faith of treaties.

ON the late renovation of the Perpetual Peace, in 1777, it was expected that this matter of dispute would be amicably adjusted; and the Count de Vergennes insinuated, that such was the intention of the court of Versailles. Many cantons, and particularly Zurich, were principally induced by these motives and these expectations to accede to the alliance; but not wholly trusting, however, to the promises of the French cabinet, it was insisted that an article explaining and confirming the said privileges should be inserted in the new treaty. The minister, with his usual address, eluded a direct mention of the demanded rights; but, in order not to lose the confidence of a nation, at a time when he most wished to obtain it, the king engaged, by the 18th article, to *preserve to the Swiss those privileges and advantages to which they had a legitimate right, and which they had*

hitherto enjoyed in France. And the Swifs agreed to postpone *the precise determination of the nature and extent of the said privileges to future conferences, wherein those matters should be regulated with fidelity and equity.* It must appear astonishing that the Swifs should be contented with so ambiguous a declaration; or could be led to believe, that the French court would preserve to them their legitimate immunities, in the moment when that legitimacy was a subject of contention. The Helvetic body had soon occasion to repent of their credulity. For, in 1781, the king of France issued an edict irrevocably subjecting the Swifs, who possess lands in France, to the poll-tax, and to all the national imposts: and laid the same duties on their merchandise imported into France, as are paid by the merchants of other countries, cheese and linens excepted, which were taxed at a reduced value.

BUT a still severer blow was levelled against the Swifs in 1786; when, notwithstanding the express reservation granted in the Perpetual Peace, the importation of linens was prohibited in France. The prohibition of this branch of commerce, which furnished employment to so many hands in various parts of Switzerland, particularly in the cantons of Zurich, Glarus, and Appenzel, and was almost the sole resource of the natives, spread a sensible alarm among them; but was not productive of any serious consequences. After the first surprise and agitation were past, the industry of the Swifs was not abated; and the linens found their way into France, either by contraband trade, or by contract with the French East India Company.

L E T T E R 22.

THE CANTON OF ZUG.

Zug, August 5.

WE yesterday quitted Zurich*, and walked to Albis, a small village about three leagues distant, situated near the summit of a mountain, much visited by travellers, who are attracted by the variety and extent of the prospect.

WE fortunately escaped a violent shower of rain, accompanied with a storm of thunder and lightning, which had threatened for some time, and began immediately upon our arrival: but we were well housed; and our host gave us a good supper and an excellent bottle of Muscat wine. We were abroad this morning by five, and had a very agreeable walk to Zug; the weather, which had of late been very sultry, being cooled by the lightning and rain. We passed over the field of battle at Cappel, where Zuingli was slain; regretting this instance of disunion between the Swiss repub-

* I have in this part arranged the preceding letters differently from the former editions, and according to the journal of my tour in 1785; though I did not at that time proceed from Soleure to Zurich, yet I have thought proper to resume the order of my first journey in 1776, and to bring the reader back to Zurich, from whence I take my departure, as before, to Zug. The

traveller who enters Switzerland at Schaffhausen, and quits it at Geneva or Neuchatel, will perhaps find this itinerary from Zurich to Basle, Bienne, Soleure, and thence to Berne and Lucerne, more convenient than that from Zurich immediately to Zug and Lucerne; while those who quit Switzerland at Basle will prefer the latter.

lics, and lamenting the premature death of that great reformer, who was killed in the 48th year of his age. We pursued our journey through a pleasant country, so thickly planted with fruit-trees, that I could hardly distinguish any other sort. Indeed, we had before remarked the prodigious number of fruit-trees in several other parts of Switzerland; the country being in many places almost a continued orchard.

ZUG, the capital of this canton, stands delightfully upon the edge of a beautiful lake, in a fertile valley, abounding with corn, pasture, and wood. This canton formerly belonged to the House of Austria: and continued faithful to that family, when the other neighbouring states had formed themselves into independent republics. As it lies between Zurich and Schweitz, the communication between those two cantons was maintained with difficulty; and by this means frequent opportunities were afforded to the House of Austria of invading and harraffing the Swiss. Under these circumstances, the six allied cantons, in 1351, laid siege to Zug, which was resolutely defended by the inhabitants; but as Albert duke of Austria was in no condition to assist them, the town at length surrendered upon the most honourable conditions. The generosity of the conquerors was equal to the courage and magnanimity of the vanquished: for, in consequence of this submission, the canton of Zug was delivered from the yoke of a foreign master; obtained the most assured liberty and independence; and was admitted into the Helvetic Confederacy upon equal terms.

THE

THE government of this little canton is exceedingly complicated; and the inhabitants of the town have somewhat more influence, and enjoy a greater share in the administration of affairs, than those of the capital burghs in the five other democratical cantons. The supreme power resides in the inhabitants of the four districts of Zug, Bar, Egeri, and Meutzingen; who assemble yearly to enact laws, and to choose their magistrates. The Landamman, reciprocally elected from each of the four communities, is nominated by the suffrages of the whole collective districts: he continues three years in office, when taken from Zug, and but two years when chosen from each of the three other districts. The general administration of affairs is entrusted to the council of regency, composed of forty members: of whom thirteen are supplied by the district of Zug, and twenty-seven are selected equally from the three remaining communities. This council, as well as the Landamman, resides always in the capital.

OSWALD, one of our old British kings, is the titular Saint of this place; and in the church is his statue, with the following inscription:

Sanctus Oswaldus Rex Angliæ Patronus hujus Ecclesiæ.

THIS Oswald* was a king of Northumberland in the seventh century; and is much renowned among the monkish writers for his chastity, piety, and power of work-

* See an account of this Oswald, who was defeated and slain in 624, by Peuda, king of the Mercians, in Pennant's Tour to Wales, vol. i. p. 258.

ing miracles. I have been endeavouring to discover the connection between a British king, under the heptarchy, and a small canton of Switzerland; without reflecting, how fruitless is the attempt to give any reason for long-established customs. In the church of Rome, fairs are easily transplanted into any soil; and caprice, as well as superstition, may have inclined the inhabitants of Zug to adore a saint, whose name is barely known in his own country.

I am, &c.

LETTER



Lucerne.

Engraved as the Act directed 1794 by T. Chubb, London.

L. Allen fecit.

J. Smith del.

L E T T E R 23.

THE TOWN AND CANTON OF LUCERNE—GENERAL
PFIFFER'S MODEL.

WE took boat at Zug, and being rowed across the lake (which is about three leagues long, and one broad) were landed at a village in the canton of Schwitz. From thence we walked to Kuffnacht; and in our way passed by a small chapel sacred to William Tell, erected on the spot where, it is said, he shot the Austrian governor. At Kuffnacht, we embarked upon the lake of Lucerne; and were much struck upon our approach with the fine situation of that town, and the noble amphitheatre of mountains, which border the lake.

LUCERNE, originally subject to the House of Austria, was exposed to the inroads of Uri, Schwitz, and Unterwalden, when those cantons had secured their liberty and independence. Her commerce to Italy was interrupted; her fairs unfrequented; and her citizens compelled to be continually under arms, in order to protect their territory from incessant depredations. Under these circumstances, the House of Austria imprudently loading the citizens with additional taxes, as exorbitant as they were unjust, Lucerne made her peace with the confederate cantons: and, having soon after expelled the Austrian party, entered into a perpetual alliance with Uri, Schwitz, and Unterwalden, and became a member of the Helvetic union.

THE

THE accession of Lucerne gave additional credit and power to the confederacy; and enabled it, in 1386, to resist all the efforts of a great and implacable enemy. In that year, Leopold duke of Austria invaded the canton with a numerous army; when the combined troops gained a bloody victory at Sempach, in which Leopold lost his life. In the accounts of this battle, an instance of private valour is recorded, which would have done honour even to a Grecian or a Roman name; and only requires the pen of a Thucydides or a Livy to equal in fame the exploits of the most admired heroes of antiquity. The Austrian army, far superior in number, was drawn up in firm battalion, accoutred in heavy armour, and furnished with long pikes, which they presented before them. The Swiss troops were led to the attack in the form of a wedge, in order to open their way into the ranks of the enemy, and to break the solidity of the battalion. The Austrians continued for some time impenetrable; when Arnold de Winkelried rushed alone upon the enemy to certain death; and, seizing as many pikes as he could grasp, endeavoured to force through the ranks: but he was killed in the attempt. His patriotic valour was not exerted in vain: it inflamed the Swiss with new courage, and taught the only method of penetrating into the battalion; which they at length effected, after the most desperate efforts of invincible resolution.

LEOPOLD himself might have escaped, when his troops first began to give way; but, with a magnanimity worthy of a better fate, he determined, after having been a witness to the total rout of his army, not to survive so ignominious a day:

day: accordingly he rushed into the thickest of the enemy, and was slain. In the arsenal of this place are still preserved his armour, together with a large quantity of cords; with which, according to tradition, he intended to have bound the citizens of Lucerne. The keeper of the arsenal displayed them with the same kind of triumph, as the man, who shews the Tower of London, points out the chains that were taken on board of the Spanish armada; which Philip the Second is said to have destined for the principal nobility of England.

THE government of Lucerne is entirely aristocratical, or rather oligarchical. The sovereign power resides in the Council of one hundred, comprising the Senate or Little Council. The former is the nominal sovereign; but the whole power actually resides in the latter, consisting of thirty-six members, who are formed into two divisions, which exercise the office by rotation. The members of this Senate are neither confirmed by the Sovereign Council, nor by the citizens, but are only dependent upon themselves; the division which retires at the end of six months, confirming that which comes into office. Besides, the vacant places in the Senate are filled by its own body; so that the power remains in the possession of a few patrician families: and, as the son generally succeeds his father, or the brother his brother, the senatorial dignity may be considered, in some measure, as hereditary.

THE administration of the current affairs, the care of the police, the management of the finances, and the whole executive power, resides in the Senate, which sits constantly;

whereas the Sovereign Council is assembled only upon particular and important occasions. The Senate has cognizance of criminal causes; but in case of capital condemnation, the Sovereign Council is convoked in order to pronounce the sentence: a practice worthy of imitation! for the condemnation of a criminal cannot be too maturely weighed; and great solemnity used in pronouncing the sentence, must impress a strong effect upon the minds of the people. In civil causes, an appeal lies from the Senate to the Sovereign Council; but this must be a mere formality: as, in fact, it is an appeal from the senators in one court to the same senators in another. Indeed, their influence over the Sovereign Council must necessarily be absolute: for they themselves constitute above a third of that body: choose their own members; and confer the principal charges of government. They nominate also to the ecclesiastical benefices, which are very considerable; near two-thirds of the revenues of the canton belonging to the clergy.

THE chiefs of the republic are two advoyers, who are chosen from the Senate by the Sovereign Council, and are confirmed annually. In all elections, the relations of the candidates, to the third degree, are excluded from voting; and neither the father and the son, nor two brothers, can be members of the Senate at the same time. Excellent institutions, one should think, to prevent the too great influence of family-connections! excellent indeed in theory, but useless in practice: and this circumstance proves, that when the spirit of the constitution is purely oligarchical, any laws enacted for the purpose of counteracting the power of the nobles,

nobles, are mere cyphers. In some few instances, however, the authority of the nobles is controuled: for, in declaring war and peace, forming new alliances, or imposing new taxes, the citizens must be assembled, and give their consent.

LUCERNE being the first in rank and power among the Catholic cantons, is the residence of the Pope's nuntio; and all affairs relative to religion are treated in the annual diet which assembles in this town, composed of the deputies of those cantons. The town contains scarcely three thousand inhabitants; has no manufactures of any consequence, and little commerce: and with respect to learning, it no where meets with less encouragement, and consequently is no where less cultivated. What a contrast to Zurich! Yet, under these disadvantages, a few persons have made no inconsiderable progress in literature. Among these the most conspicuous is Mr. Balthasar, member of the Senate: he possesses a library that is rich in books relative to the history of Switzerland, in which he is extremely conversant; and the publications which he has already given to the world, and those which he is now preparing for the press, prove that he knows how to use them. His works are, for the most part, in the German and Latin tongues; they contain biographical anecdotes of several illustrious Swiss; elucidate various important parts in the general history of Switzerland; but more particularly relate to the canton of Lucerne. His son, a member of the Great Council, deserves to be mentioned for his collection of English books; and the zeal with which he endeavours to propagate a knowledge of our literature. I

have also no less satisfaction in adding, that, since my first expedition into these parts, science is more cultivated; that the principles of toleration are better understood and more widely diffused; and that a literary society is established for the promotion of polite learning. The population of the canton has considerably increased within this century: a sure proof of a mild and equitable government. The inhabitants are, as I am informed, almost totally engaged in agriculture. The southern parts of the canton are chiefly mountainous, and furnish for exportation cattle, hides, cheese, and butter. The northern district is fruitful in corn; the crops of which being more than sufficient for the consumption of the whole canton, there is a constant exportation of this article from the weekly market held in the town, to which the inhabitants of the neighbouring democratical cantons resort, in order to purchase that and other necessaries in which their own country is deficient. This commerce, which, together with the passage of the merchandise for Italy, is the chief support of the town, might be exceedingly improved and augmented, considering its advantageous situation: for the Reufs issues from the lake, passes through the town: and, having joined the Aar, falls into the Rhine.

THE cathedral and the Jesuits church, are the only public buildings worthy of observation; but they are too much loaded with rich ornaments, and disgraced by bad paintings. In the cathedral is an organ of a fine tone, and of an extraordinary size: of the latter you may judge by the dimensions of the center pipe; which, as the priest assured me, is
forty

forty feet in length, near three in breadth, and weighs eleven hundred pounds. The bridges which skirt the town, round the edge of the lake, are the fashionable walks of the place, and remarkable for their length. Being covered at top, and open at the sides, they afford a constant view of this delightful and romantic country. They are decorated with coarse paintings, representing the histories of the Old Testament, the battles of the Swis, and the dance of Death.

UPON our arrival at Lucerne, we sent a letter of recommendation to General Pfiffer, a native of this town, and an officer in the French service. He received us immediately, with his usual civility, and shewed us his topographical representation of the most mountainous part of Switzerland, which well deserves the accurate attention of the curious traveller. It is a model in relief; and what was finished in 1776, comprised about sixty square leagues, in the cantons of Lucerne, Zug, Berne, Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden. The model was twelve feet long, and nine and a half broad.

THE composition is principally a mastic of charcoal, lime, clay, a little pitch, with a thin coat of wax; and is so hard as to be trod upon without receiving the least damage. The whole is painted with different colours, representing the objects as they exist in nature. It is worthy of particular observation, that not only the woods of oak, beech, pine, and other trees, are distinguished; but also that the strata of the several rocks are marked; each being shaped upon the spot, and formed with granite, gravel, calcareous stone, or such
other

other natural substances as compose the original mountains. The plan is indeed so minutely exact, that it comprises not only all the mountains, lakes, rivers, towns, villages, and forests; but every cottage, every torrent, every bridge, every road, and even every path is distinctly and accurately represented.

GENERAL PFIFFER has already been employed in this work about ten years, with the most astonishing patience and assiduity: he has himself made the plans upon the spots, taken the elevations of the mountains, and laid them down in their several proportions. In the prosecution of this laborious performance, he has been twice arrested for a spy; and in the popular cantons has frequently been forced to work by moon-light, in order to avoid the jealousy of the peasants, who think their liberty would be endangered, should so exact a plan be taken of their country. As he is obliged to remain some time upon the tops of the Alps, where no provision can be procured; he generally carries with him a few she-goats, whose milk supplies him with nourishment. Indeed his perseverance in surmounting all the difficulties, that necessarily have arisen in the course of this undertaking, is almost inconceivable. When he has finished any particular part, he sends for the peasants and *chasseurs* who reside near the spot, and bids them examine accurately each mountain; whether it corresponds, as far as the smallness of the scale will admit, with its natural appearance: then, by frequently retouching, he corrects the deficiencies. He takes his elevations from the level of the lake

lake of Lucerne; which, according to Mr. de Sauffure, is about fourteen hundred and eight feet above the Mediterranean.

THIS model, exhibiting the most mountainous parts of Switzerland, conveys a sublime picture of immense alps piled one upon another: as if the story of the Titans were realized, and they had succeeded (at least in one spot of the globe) in heaping Offa upon Pelion, and Olympus upon Offa. The general informed me, that the tops of the alps which crossed Switzerland in the same line, are nearly of the same level; or, in other words, that there are continued chains of mountains of the same elevation, rising in progression to the highest range; and from thence as gradually descending towards Italy.

THE general is exceedingly polite and affable to strangers, and ever ready to be of any service to travellers, in pointing out the best roads, and in acquainting them with the places most worthy of observation.

NEAR Lucerne is Mount Pilate, formerly called Mons *Pileatus*, from the Latin word *pilea*; its top being generally covered with a cloud or cap. This word has been corrupted into *Pilatus*; and from this alteration a thousand ridiculous stories have been invented; among others, that Pontius Pilate, after having condemned our Saviour to death, was seized with remorse; made an excursion into Switzerland; and drowned himself in a lake, which is at the top of that mountain.

mountain. This corruption of a word, and the absurd legend fabricated from its alteration, will naturally remind you of several fables of similar absurdity, which are seriously related by the Greek writers: a circumstance which my very worthy and learned friend Mr. Bryant, has so amply and ably discussed, in his *Analysis of antient Mythology*.

I am, &c.

P O S T S C R I P T.

HAVING in three successive visits to Lucerne, observed the progress of General Pfiffer's model, and in August 1786 seen it finally completed, I am enabled to add the following particulars, partly from my own observation, and partly communicated by the ingenious artist himself.

THE model is composed of a hundred and forty-two compartments of different sizes and forms: they are respectively numbered; and the whole can be taken to pieces and united with almost as much ease (if we may compare great things with small) as the dissected maps, by which children are instructed in geography.

THE lake of Lucerne, nearly the center of Switzerland, forms also the center of the plan, which lays down part of the circumjacent cantons of Zurich, Zug, Schweitz, Unterwalden, Lucerne, and Berne, and a small portion of the mountains of Glarus. It comprehends a space of 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ leagues

leagues * in length, and 11 in breadth; and the dimensions of the model being 20 feet † and a half in length, and 12 in breadth; 203 $\frac{1}{2}$ square leagues are represented on a parallelogram of 246 feet; or about two English miles and $\frac{1}{4}$ by a square English foot. The highest point of the model from the level of the center, is about ten inches; and as the most elevated mountain represented therein rises 1475 toises, or 9440 feet, above the lake of Lucerne, at a gross calculation, the height of an inch in the model is equivalent to about 900 feet. In regard to myself, though I received considerable satisfaction from the first view of this extraordinary performance, yet I again contemplated it with much more pleasure, and still greater astonishment, when I was able to trace on it many of my various expeditions, and to acknowledge the surprising accuracy with which the most stupendous works of nature are delineated on so small a scale, and with so perfect a resemblance.

THE general began this elaborate work at the age of fifty, and though now in the seventieth year of his age, continues his annual expeditions into the alps, with a spirit and ardour that would fatigue a much younger person. It is no less entertaining than instructive, to hear him expatiate, with an agreeable vivacity, on the most interesting objects, which are observed on the model. He kindly supplied me with the following remarks, which I transcribe from my journal. According to a rough calculation, the

* A league is equal to 2,288 toises, or 13,728 French feet, or 14,643 English feet.

† French feet.

height which snow usually remains during summer, may be estimated at 1360 toises, or 8704 English feet, above the level of the sea; and on which it never melts, at 1448, or 9264 feet. As a curious instance of divided property, he pointed to the promontory called Kieman, on the western shore of the lake of Zug, of which the ground belongs to Lucerne, the timber to Zug, and the leaves to Schweitz. Among the phænomena of nature he mentioned the Rigi, an insulated mountain near the lake of Lucerne, twenty-five miles in circumference, and rising to a perpendicular height of more than four thousand feet above the surface of the lake: it is entirely composed of gravel and pudding-stone, and must have been formed by the waters. The Rigi joins to a small ridge of sand-stone running towards Schweitz.

MOUNT PILATE offers a most singular curiosity. At the elevation of five thousand feet, and in the most perpendicular part of the mountain, near the pasture of Brunlen, is observed, in the middle of a cavern hollowed in a black rock, a colossal statue, which appears to be of white stone. It is the figure of a man in drapery standing, leaning one elbow on a pedestal, with one leg crossed over the other, and so regularly formed, that it cannot be a *lusus naturæ*. This statue is called Dominic by the peasants, who frequently accost it from the only place in which it can be seen, and when their voices are re-echoed from the cavern, they say, in the simplicity of their hearts, "Dominic has answered us." It is difficult to imagine by whom, or in what manner, this statue could be placed in a situation, which has hitherto proved inaccessible to all who have endeavoured to approach it.

About

About the beginning of the present century, Huber, a native of Krientz, a neighbouring village, attempted to descend into the cavern by means of ropes let down from the summit of the rock : he succeeded so far as to gain a near view of this singular phænomenon, and was again drawn up in safety. On a second trial, as he was suspended in the air, and was endeavouring to draw himself into the cavern by fixing a grapple to the statue, the rope broke, and he was dashed to pieces. Since that dreadful accident no one has ventured to repeat the experiment from the same quarter. Another trial to penetrate to the statue was made in 1756, by General Pfiffer and eight persons, from a small opening on the opposite side of the mountain, in which the natives collect a white substance called *mond-loch*, or cream of the moon. As this opening is supposed to communicate with the cavern, the general and his companions crept on their hands and knees, one behind the other, and winding in the bed of a small torrent, through several narrow passages, they at length discovered the light of the sun through a remote chasm ; but as the distance seemed very considerable, and as the fall of a single stone might have obstructed their return, they thought it imprudent to venture any further, and retreated without having effected their purpose.

L E T T E R 24.

VALLEY OF ENTLIBUCH—ZOFFINGEN—LAKE OF
SEMPACH—ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE.

IN my first expedition to this country, I had no opportunity of visiting the interior parts of the canton of Lucerne, which I afterwards traversed in 1785 and 1786. On both those occasions I passed from Berne to Lucerne, one time along the high road leading through Zoffingen, Surzee, and by the lake of Sempach; at the other, through Lange-nau, the Emme-thal, and the valley of Entlibuch, a district which, though not usually frequented by travellers, yet highly deserves their attention.

IN the 13th century, Entlibuch was subject to the counts of Wolhausen, and came by purchase, in 1299, to the emperor Albert. In the following century it was held as a fief from the House of Austria by several successive counts; of these the last, Peter of Torrenberg, having grievously oppressed the natives, they revolted, and in 1386 threw themselves under the protection of Lucerne. That republic continued to possess Entlibuch, as a feudal tenure under the House of Austria, until 1405; when the archduke Frederic renounced all the rights of sovereignty in favour of Lucerne. For above a century and an half subsequent to that period, the inhabitants, inflamed with a spirit of independence, and
excited

excited by the example of the neighbouring popular cantons, frequently rose in arms, and attempted to establish a democracy; but without success. Their last insurrection broke out in 1653; since which time they have continued in a state of perfect tranquillity, under the wise administration of Lucerne; and have enjoyed, with contentment, the considerable privileges with which they are endowed.

THE bailliage of Entlibuch extends from the Emme-thal in the canton of Berne, to the bridge near Wertenstein, about fifteen miles in length, and nine in its greatest breadth; and contains at least 11,000 souls. It is governed by a bailif, who is always a senator of Lucerne: he continues in office two years, and generally resides in that capital. The inhabitants enjoy considerable immunities, which they know how to prize.

THE bailliage is divided into three districts; the Upper, or Eschlismat; the Middle, or Shuepfen; the Lower, or Entlibuch; each whereof has its separate courts of justice, from which an appeal lies to Lucerne.

THAT part of the bailliage which I traversed, is a valley, watered by several lively rivulets, winding for some way between two ridges of well-wooded hills, and abounding in picturesque scenery. Afterwards the country was undulating, and the road, which was narrow and rugged, ran along continual acclivities and declivities, through well-cultivated fields of pasture. I passed through several villages, of which the principal were Eschlismat, Shuepfen, and Entlibuch,

tlibuch, which takes its name from the rivulet Entle, and gives it to the whole district. These places are small; but the whole country is strewed with cottages, and seems a continued village. The inhabitants chiefly follow agriculture; they rear large quantities of horned cattle, sheep, goats, and swine; make and export cheeses in great abundance. Though usually richer than the inhabitants in the other parts of the canton, yet they did not appear so well clothed, or to possess such neat cottages, as their neighbours in the Emme-thal. The peasants of Entlibuch are much esteemed for their independent spirit, vigour, and strength; remarkable for keenness and vivacity, for great quickness in repartee, for a peculiarity of garb, and for many striking customs which distinguish them from the natives of the circumjacent districts. Of various usages, which escaped my notice during my short stay among them, I chanced to gain information of one custom, which reminds me of the *Fescennina Licentia* mentioned by Horace, that prevailed among the Roman peasants. Two neighbouring parishes send a challenge to each other; and, at the conclusion of the carnival, each dispatches a man, *bedizened* with flowers and shells, called *shrove-monday-embassador*; who rides to the neighbouring village, and reads, or rather sings, two satirical compositions in verse: the one, a general satire against the parish, usually begins by celebrating a period of Swiss history accommodated to the circumstances of time and place; then draws a comparison between the two parishes, giving the preference to his own, either for the superior learning and piety of the priest, the wisdom and impartiality of the president, the industry and spirit of the men, the beauty

beauty and chastity of the women, and the education of the children. The second composition consists of a string of epigrams in ridicule of particular persons; in which any scandalous adventures, or ludicrous circumstances, which have happened since the last year, are recorded with much exaggeration. The poet finishes his harangue with expressing a wish, that on the next Shrove-monday the inhabitants may improve, and not deserve such a severe reprimand.

ON the conclusion of this lecture, which creates much laughter, the *mock ambassador* returns; and the men of the two parishes repair, with drums beating and colours flying, to an open place, called the *Field of Battle*, followed and encouraged by the inhabitants of their respective parishes. When the two *armies* are drawn up in order of battle; the *combatants*, in imitation of the old Swiss custom, fall down upon their knees, offer up a short prayer, and start up at the sound of the trumpet. Having formed themselves into two columns of several ranks, they march arm in arm, with uniform step and military attitude; both the foremost lines meet in front and jostle against each other, being supported and pushed forwards by the hinder files, frequently assisted by the women, until one *phalanx* is broke. The victorious party is dignified with the name of the *Swiss*, and those who gave way are called *Austrians*, in allusion to the antient animosity between those two powers. The jurymen of the district are present as umpires, and to prevent any violent disputes and quarrels. After the rencounter both parties sit down to table, and the day is concluded with feasting.

As

As those fatirical compositions occasionally created much ill-will between the two neighbouring parishes, and the rencounters were attended with various accidents, the government of Lucerne abolished the custom; but has lately permitted it to be revived, with certain restrictions calculated to prevent any future mischief.

THE valley of Entlibuch may be considered as one of those parts which unite the mild and cultivated, with the more wild and rugged scenery of Switzerland; its acclivities gradually ascend and terminate in Mount Pilate, whose barren top is seen towering above the fertile and well-wooded hills.

ON quitting this valley we crossed the Emme over a covered bridge, admired the romantic position of Wertenstein, a convent of Cordeliers, overhanging the perpendicular banks of that torrent; and passed through a very steep and rocky country to Malters, a small village within a league of the capital. Here being a considerable fair, I stopped and dined at the *table d'hôte*, in company with several gentlemen from Lucerne. In walking through the fair, I observed several booths for the sale of artificial flowers; which were purchased by the country girls. With these flowers, and with four bows of ribbands, they ornament their hats, which they adjust obliquely, with a degree of rustic coquetry that is not unbecoming.

ANOTHER district of this canton, is that part which I visited in 1786, along the high road leading from Berne to
Lucerne,

Lucerne. I passed the night at Zoffingen, a small town in the canton of Berne, the inhabitants whereof enjoy greater immunities than any other place in that whole canton. They have their own magistrates; and what is peculiar, their own courts of justice, both civil and criminal, which decide in the last resort, without an appeal to Berne. A bailif resides there; but his whole employment consists in collecting the tythes. The town contains about two thousand souls.

NEAR Zoffingen I entered the canton of Lucerne, and passed through a narrow valley bounded by a chain of hills remarkable for the richness and variety of the hanging woods. As we proceeded the valley expanded; we traversed a gently waving country, and descended to Surzee, a small neat town near the lake of Sempach. From thence we coasted the west-side of that lake, which is a small but beautiful piece of water, about three miles in length, and one in breadth. The grounds on each side slope gently to the edge of the water, and are prettily checkered with wood. On the opposite banks of the lake, I observed the town of Sempach, celebrated for the battle which established the liberty of the Swiss; and which I have already mentioned in the preceding letter. The anniversary of that battle, which happened on the 9th of July, 1386, is still commemorated with great solemnity, both at Sempach and Lucerne; and supplies a copious subject for many poems and ballads in the numerous collection of national songs.

ON that anniversary, a large body of persons of all ranks assemble on the spot where the battle was fought; a priest

ascends a pulpit erected in the open air, and delivers a thanksgiving sermon on the successful efforts of their ancestors on that happy day, which ensured to their country liberty and independence. On the conclusion of this sermon, another priest reads a description of the battle, and commemorates the names of those brave Swifs who gloriously sacrificed their lives in defence of their freedom. Having exhorted those who are present to pray for the souls of their countrymen, and of the enemies, who fell in that battle; they all repair instantly to a small chapel, where masses are sung for the souls of the deceased. During this service, the people, falling on their knees, pray for their glorious ancestors, either in the chapel, on whose walls are painted the deeds of the Swifs who immortalized themselves in this conflict, or before four stone crosses which distinguish the place of combat.

L E T T E R 25.

THE LAKE OF LUCERNE—GERISAU—SCHWEITZ
—ORIGIN OF THE HELVETIC CONFEDERACY
—WILLIAM TELL—ALTDORF.

THE Waldstætter See, or the Lake of the Four Cantons, is, from the greatness and sublimity as well as variety of scenery, perhaps the finest body of water in Switzerland. The upper branch, or the lake of Lucerne, is in the form of a cross; the sides of which stretch from Kuffnacht to Dallenwal, a small village near Stantz. It is bounded towards the town of Lucerne by cultivated hills sloping gradually to the water, contrasted on the opposite side by an enormous mass of barren and craggy rocks. Mount Pilate rises boldly from the lake, and is perhaps one of the highest mountains in Switzerland, if estimated from its base, and not from the level of the sea. According to General Pfiffer, its elevation above the lake is more than six thousand feet: nevertheless its height above the Mediterranean is trifling, in comparison with that of the alps we are going to visit; nor indeed does the snow continue all the year upon its summit.

TOWARDS the end of this branch, the lake contracts into a narrow creek scarcely a mile across; soon after, it again widens, and we entered the second branch, or the lake of Schweitz: on the western side the canton of Underwalden, on the eastern that of Schweitz. Here the mountains are

more lofty, and infinitely varied: some covered to their very summits with the most lively verdure; others perpendicular and craggy; here forming vast amphitheatres of wood; there jutting into the water in bold promontories.

ON the eastern side of this branch, is the village of Gerisau, at the foot of the Rigi: it is the smallest republic in Europe. Its territory is about a league in breadth, and two in length; situated partly on a small neck of land at the edge of the lake, and partly lying upon the rapid declivity of the Rigi. It contains about 1200 inhabitants: they have their general assembly of burgeses, their Landamman, their council of regency, their courts of justice, and their militia. I was informed, that there is not a single horse in the whole territory of the republic; as indeed might well be supposed: for the only way of arriving at the town is by water, excepting a narrow path down the steep sides of the mountain, which is almost impassable. Gerisau is entirely composed of scattered houses and cottages of a very neat and picturesque appearance. Each dwelling is provided with a field or small garden. The inhabitants are much employed in preparing silk for the manufactures of Basle. This little republic, is under the protection of the four cantons, Lucerne, Uri, Schwitz, and Unterwalden: and in case of war furnishes its quota of men. To the ambitious politician, who judges of governments by extent of dominion and power, such a diminutive republic thrown into an obscure corner, and scarcely known out of its own contracted territory, must appear unworthy of notice; but the smallest spot of earth on which civil freedom is cultivated and flourishes, cannot fail to interest those

those who know the true value of liberty and independence; and are convinced, that political happiness does not consist in great opulence and extensive empire.

TOWARDS the end of this branch the lake forms a bay; in the midst of which lies the village of Brunnen, celebrated for the treaty, concluded, in 1315, between Uri, Schwitz, and Unterwalden. Here I landed, and walked through an agreeable and fertile plain, laid out in meadows, and planted with fruit-trees, to Schwitz, which stands on the slope of a hill, at the bottom of two high, sharp and rugged rocks, called the *Schwitzer-Haken*. Its position is extremely agreeable. The church, which is a large magnificent building, stands in the center of the place: near it the houses are contiguous to each other: but in the other part they are prettily dispersed about the gentle acclivities, in the midst of lawns and meadows, and sheltered by groves of trees. The principal object of curiosity in Schwitz, is a complete collection of the celebrated Hetlinger's medals, possessed by his nephew. This collection, which he inherited from his uncle, is very valuable, the medals being all of the finest impressions, and several extremely rare. From these medals Mr. de Mehel published his much esteemed engravings, to which he has prefixed a life of the artist, who was born in the canton of Schwitz, on the 28th of March 1691, and died in 1771, in a very advanced age.

HAVING reembarked at Brunnen, we soon entered the third branch, or the lake of Uri; the scenery of which is so grand and sublime, that its impression will never be erased from

from my mind. Imagine to yourself a deep and narrow lake about nine miles in length, bordered on both sides with rocks uncommonly wild and romantic, and, for the most part, perpendicular; with forests of beech and pine growing down their sides to the very edge of the water: the rocks are so entirely steep and overhanging, that we scarcely observed more than four or five spots, where we could have landed. On the right-hand, upon our first entrance, a detached piece of rock, at a small distance from the shore, engaged our attention. This rock is wholly formed by stones of the size and shape of bricks, so as to appear quite artificial. The same kind of natural masonry may be observed in the lofty cliffs which impend over this lake, not far from Brunnen. It rises to about sixty feet in height; is covered with underwood and shrubs; and reminded me of those crags that shoot up in the fall of the Rhine near Schaffhausen: but here the lake was as smooth as crystal; and the dead silence and solemn gloom which reigned in this place, were not less awful and affecting than the tremendous roaring of the cataract at Schaffhausen. Somewhat further, upon the highest point of the Seelisberg, we observed a small chapel that seemed inaccessible; and below it, the little village of Gruti, near which the three heroes of Switzerland are said to have taken reciprocal oaths of fidelity, when they planned the famous revolution.

ON the opposite side appears the chapel of William Tell, erected in honour of that hero, upon the very spot where (it is said) he leaped from the boat, in which he was conveying as a prisoner to Kuffnacht. It is built upon a rock that projects into the lake under a hanging wood: a situation amid
scenes

scenes so strikingly awful, as must strongly affect even the most dull and torpid imagination! On the inside of this chapel, the several actions of William Tell are coarsely painted. While we were viewing them, we observed the countenances of our watermen glistening with exultation, and they related to us, with much spirit and sensibility, the cruelties and tyranny of Gesler, governor of Uri, and the intrepid behaviour of their glorious deliverer. Indeed I have frequently remarked with pleasure, the national enthusiasm which so generally prevails in this country; and have greatly admired the fire and animation with which the people discourse of those famous men among their ancestors, to whom they are indebted for that happy state of independence which they now enjoy. This laudable spirit is continually supported and encouraged by the number of statues, and other memorials, of the antient Swiss heroes, which are so common in every town and village throughout Switzerland. Among these, Tell is the most distinguished, and he seems to be the peculiar favourite of the common people: the reason is obvious; for his story partakes greatly of the marvellous.

A FEW years ago a treatise, entitled *Fable Danoise* was published at Berne; in which the author calls in question the history of William Tell. Tho' his arguments in general are by no means conclusive; yet he mentions two circumstances which, if true, are convincing proofs, that much fiction is interwoven with the whole account: for, the author asserts that the incident of Tell's shooting the apple from the head of his son, is not recorded in any of the contemporary

temporary historians, although they give the minutest accounts of the governor's tyranny; and that the first writer who takes notice of it, is Petermann Etterlin of Lucerne, who lived in the latter end of the fifteenth century, near two hundred years after the fact is supposed to have happened. Besides, a story of the same kind is related in the Danish annals by Saxo Grammaticus, with scarcely any difference but that of names: Harold king of Denmark supplies the place of the governor of Uri; and Tocco that of William Tell; and this event, which is said to have happened in 965, is attended also with nearly the same incidents as those recorded in the Swiss accounts*. Nevertheless, it is far from being a necessary consequence, that, because the authenticity of the story concerning the apple is liable to some doubts; *therefore* the whole tradition relating to Tell is fabulous. Neither is it a proof against the reality of a fact, that it is not mentioned by any contemporary historians. The general history of William Tell is repeatedly celebrated in several old German songs, so remarkable for their antient dialect and simplicity, as almost to raise the deeds they celebrate above all reasonable suspicion: add to this, the constant tradition of the country, together with two chapels erected some centuries ago, in memory of his exploits. The three cantons were so much offended with the author for throwing any doubt upon the exploits of their antient hero, that they presented a remonstrance to the fo-

* As Saxo Grammaticus is an author but little known, and the passage in question is exceedingly curious; the reader will find it inserted at the end of this vo-

lume. It is but justice to add, that some persons question the authenticity of this passage, and suppose it to be spurious.

vereign council of Berne: and the pamphlet was publicly burnt at Uri. In this instance their national prejudices (if they really deserve that name) become, in some measure, meritorious and respectable.

UPON our landing at Fluellen, I had an opportunity of observing that the cross-bow is still much used in these parts, as I saw several very young boys, each with that instrument in his hand. Observing a butt at a small distance from the place, I gave them to understand, that those who hit the mark should receive a penny for their dexterity. Upon this intimation, three boys took aim successively, two of whom touched the very center of the butt, and obtained the prize: but, the third missing, I made him shoot till he hit the mark; which, after two or three trials, he at length performed.

FROM Fluellen we walked to Altdorf, the capital burgh of the canton of Uri, situated in a narrow vale almost entirely surrounded by stupendous mountains. It contains several neat houses; the tops whereof are covered with large stones, in order to prevent the roofs being carried away by those violent hurricanes which are frequent in these mountainous countries.

WHEN the greatest part of Helvetia was subject to the empire; the inhabitants of Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden, had long enjoyed the most considerable privileges, particularly the right of being governed by their own magistrates: the clergy and many of the nobles, indeed, had fiefs and

subjects in those respective territories; but the bulk of the people formed several communities almost totally independent. During the twelfth century, various disputes between these three cantons and the emperors, united them more firmly than ever; and they were accustomed, every ten years, to renew formally their alliance. Such was their situation at the death of Frederick II. in 1250. From this period, or soon afterwards, commences the interregnum in the empire: during which time of anarchy and confusion, the nobles and bishops endeavouring to extend their power, and to encroach upon the privileges of the people; Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden, put themselves under the protection of Rhodolph of Hapsburgh, who, in 1273, being chosen emperor, terminated the interregnum. Rhodolph received a small revenue from these cantons, and appointed a governor, who had cognizance in all criminal causes: the rights, however, and privileges of the people were expressly reserved.

RHODOLPH, some time after his accession to the imperial throne, listened to the ambitious schemes of his son Albert, who was desirous to form Helvetia into a duchy. For this purpose the emperor purchased the domains of several abbays, and other considerable fiefs in Switzerland, as well in the canton of Schweitz as in the neighbouring territories. The three cantons, induced by the great increase of power, which the emperor gained by this acquisition, prudently renewed their alliance, and obtained a confirmation of their privileges: which, upon the death of Rhodolph, was confirmed by his successor Adolphus of Nassau. But when Albert

bert was afterwards elected emperor, he refused to ratify their rights: and, in order totally to subdue the people, placed over them two governors, who were guilty of many flagitious acts of tyranny and oppression.

UNDER these circumstances Werner de Staffach of Schweitz, Walther Furst of Uri, and Arnold de Melchthal of Underwalden, planned the famous revolution, which took place January 13, 1308, and restored liberty to the three cantons. Albert, while he was preparing to attack them, was assassinated by his nephew John of Hapsburgh*. In 1315, Leopold duke of Austria marched against the confederate cantons, at the head of twenty thousand troops, and, endeavouring to force his way into Schweitz at the streights of Morgarten, received a total defeat from thirteen hundred Swiss, who were posted upon the mountains. If we may believe contemporary historians, the Swiss lost but fourteen men in this memorable engagement, which insured their independence. In the same year, the three cantons contracted a perpetual alliance, which was ratified at Brunnen; and is the grand foundation of the Helvetic Confederacy. Such were the feeble beginnings of a league, since become so formidable by the accession of ten more cantons, and by the additional strength of its numerous allies: and it is remarkable, that Switzerland is the only country which, on the one side, has confined the limits of the German empire; and, on the other, has set bounds to the French monarchy, which the latter has never transgressed.

* See Letter 14.

THE name of Schweitzerland, or Switzerland, which originally comprehended only the three cantons of Uri, Schwitz, and Underwalden, was afterwards extended to all Helvetia. It derived that appellation either from the canton of Schwitz, as having particularly distinguished itself in the revolution of 1308, and also at the battle of Morgarten; or because the Austrians called all the inhabitants of these mountainous parts, by the general denomination of Schweitzers.

SWITZERLAND was the rock on which the House of Austria split, during more than a century. Blinded with resentment against their former subjects, and anxious to recover their lost domains; the several dukes led in person considerable armies to subdue a nation, whose spirit was unconquerable; and to obtain possession of a country, which, from its situation, was easily defended by a handful of men against the most numerous troops. Within the period above-mentioned, they neglected several opportunities of aggrandizing themselves in other parts; and, fighting what was more feasible, bent their whole efforts to acquire what in its very nature was unattainable. The consequence of this mistaken policy, was, a continued succession of defeats, attended with a prodigious expence, and the loss of their bravest troops: until at length, convinced of their error, they totally relinquished an attempt, in which they had expended so much fruitless blood and treasure. But although several emperors of that House occasionally made alliances with the Swiss cantons; yet it was not till the treaty of Westphalia in 1648, that their independence was fully and

and finally acknowledged, by Ferdinand III. and the whole empire.

THE government of Uri and Schwitz is entirely democratical, and nearly the same. The supreme power resides in the people at large, who are divided into several communities, from which are chosen the councils of regency. In the *Lands-gemeind*, or general assembly, the Landamman, and the principal magistrates, are elected; and every burgher, at the age of fourteen, in the cantons of Uri and Underwalden; and of fifteen in Schwitz, has a right to vote. The councils of regency in Uri and Schwitz consist each of sixty members, and reside at the capital burghs. In this council the executive power is vested, and from this body the principal magistrates are chosen.

THESE two cantons contain, including their subjects, about fifty thousand souls, and in case of necessity could furnish above twelve thousand militia. All the Catholic cantons enjoy considerable subsidies from France. Every burgher, at the age of fourteen, in Uri, receives annually about six livres, or five shillings; the Landamman and the magistrates more in proportion. The canton of Schwitz being for some time discontented with France, withdrew its troops from that service: but this year (1776) the matter has been accommodated; and the king pays annually to every male child of a burgher four livres, commencing from the time of his birth.

THE same kind of soil, and the same sort of productions, are common to the two cantons: the whole country being
rugged

rugged and mountainous, consists chiefly of pasture, raises little corn, and has no vines. We cannot but observe with astonishment, to what a degree of fertility the natives have improved a land, naturally barren, and for which they fought with as much zeal and intrepidity, as if they contended for the richest plains of Sicily or Asia Minor. In these little democratical states, sumptuary laws are not necessary; for, they scarcely know, even in idea, what luxury is. Such indeed is the purity, or (as some perhaps would call it) the austerity of morals, which still prevails among these people, as cannot easily be imagined by the inhabitants of great and opulent cities: and I cannot reflect on that affectionate patriotism which so strongly attaches them to their country, without calling to mind that beautiful description of the Swiss peasant, in Goldsmith's Traveller:

" Dear is that shed to which his soul conforms,

" And dear that hill which lifts him to the storms:

" And as a child, when scaring sounds molest,

" Clings close and closer to the mother's breast;

" So the loud torrent, and the whirlwind's roar,

" But bind him to his native mountains more."

EVERY step we now advance is treading, as it were, upon sacred ground; monuments continually occurring of those memorable battles, by which the Swiss rescued themselves from oppression, and secured the enjoyment of their invaluable freedom. I am now indeed in the very center of civil liberty; would I could add of religious too! but the church of Rome is here exclusively established. It must be acknowledged, however, that this intolerant spirit is not wholly confined

finer to the Catholic cantons; for, in those where the Protestants prevail, Calvinism is alone admitted: and thus a nation, who prides herself upon her freedom, denies the free exercise of religion to every other sect except that which predominates. Is not this striking at the first principle, and most valuable privilege, of genuine liberty?

LONG as my letter already is, I cannot forbear mentioning a peculiar custom observed in some of these democratical states: every person who is chosen for a bailliage, or any lucrative office, is obliged to pay a certain stipulated sum into the public fund. This practice is attended with one ill consequence at least; as the successful candidate is in some measure authorised to stretch his prerogatives, in order to swell the profits of his charge. Accordingly it is a general remark, that in the common bailliages the bailifs, appointed by the popular cantons, are more apt to be guilty of exactions than those of the aristocratical republics.

I am, &c.

LETTER

L E T T E R 26.

CANTON OF UNDERWALDEN—SARNE—SAXELEN—
TOMB AND CHARACTER OF NICHOLAS DE FLUE—
STANTZ—ENGELBERG—PASSAGE OVER THE SU-
REN ALPS TO ALTDORF.

INSTEAD of proceeding, as in my former tour, from Lucerne to Altdorf by water, I made an agreeable excursion to Sarne, Saxelen, and Stantz, in the canton of Underwalden, visited the abbey of Engelberg, and traversed the Suren Alps to Altdorf.

HAVING dispatched my baggage by water to Altdorf, I walked, in company with Mr. Meyer, member of the Great Council of Lucerne, through a pleasant plain, lying between Mount Pilate and an opposite ridge of hills, to Winke, a village situated on an inlet of the lake of Lucerne. There I took boat, and rowing across the inlet, disembarked near Alpnach, in the canton of Underwalden, and continued along a foot-way, which winds through enclosures of rich pastureland, browsed by numerous herds of fine cattle, and prettily checkered with scattered cottages. Having crossed a small river, I arrived at Sarne, the capital burgh of that division of the canton called Oberwalden, wherein the *Land-rath*, or supreme court of judicature, assembles for the purpose of deciding civil and criminal processes. This tribunal is composed of fifty-eight judges, who are chosen by the people,
and

and continue in office for life. In criminal affairs of any notoriety, each of these fifty-eight is empowered to bring into court two individuals; and this whole tribunal, thus consisting of a hundred and seventy-four members, assembles in a large open hall in the town-house, and passes final sentence.

AT Sarne I embarked upon the Aa, and ascending its stream, entered the lake of Sarne: this piece of water, about three miles long, and one and a half broad, is pleasantly enclosed between the mountains, and its rising borders are richly variegated with pastures and trees. I landed at Saxelen, which stands on its western shore; a neat village much frequented in these parts, as being the native place of the celebrated saint and patriot Nicholas de Flue, to whose honour a church has been lately erected at a considerable expence. The interior is ornamented in a pleasing style of architecture. Ten elegant columns of black marble support the roof: they are about twenty-four feet in height, and many of them are of a single piece. They were hewn out of a quarry in the Melchthal, about nine miles from Saxelen, and were dragged from thence by the peasants, who voluntarily performed this task, which they considered as an act of religious duty: a laborious enterprise, to convey such heavy burdens down steep precipices and over rugged pathless rocks, where they could neither be assisted by horses or oxen!

UNDER a glass-case in the midst of this church, are deposited the bones of this favourite object of national worship, fantastically ornamented, according to the Roman Catholic

custom, with gold and precious stones. His real burial place is still to be seen in a small adjoining chapel: it is a simple grave-stone, on which his figure is coarsely carved in stone, the work of the age in which he lived. At a small height over this ancient monument, is placed another grave-stone, bearing also his figure, executed in later times, less rude, but still of coarse workmanship. On entering this chapel, I observed numerous pilgrims of both sexes, who were kneeling before his tomb, and praying with the greatest fervency. Many, in the ardour of devotion, threw themselves between the two grave-stones, and stretching themselves upon the most ancient figure, repeatedly kissed and embraced it.

NICHOLAS de Flue, this object of national enthusiasm, was born at Saxelen in 1417. Descended from an ancient family, he signalized himself in defence of his country, and particularly during the war which the Swiss supported against Sigismund archduke of Austria. He was no less remarkable for humanity than valour. He remonstrated to his countrymen preparing to pillage and burn the convent of St. Margaret near Dieffenhofen. He exclaimed: "If God grants you the victory over your enemies, use it with moderation; and spare those edifices which are consecrated to him." This remonstrance was attended with effect, and the convent was saved from destruction. To the most excellent qualities of the heart and understanding, to great political sagacity he added the exterior graces of figure, dignity of character, and the most winning affability of manners. Raised by his countrymen to several high employments in the state, he repeatedly declined the office of landamman

landamman from motives of delicacy, because he disapproved the principles of the governing party. At length, hurried away by his detestation of evil, and a zeal for monkish devotion, he quitted his family in the fiftieth year of his age, and retiring from the world, in a fit of gloomy superstition turned hermit. The place of his retreat was at Ranft, a few miles from Saxelen; there he built an hermitage and a small chapel, and practised all the severities required by that austere mode of life with the strictest observance.

BUT the flame of patriotism, although smothered in his breast by an ill-directed zeal for mistaken duties, was not extinguished; and he was the happy instrument in restoring Switzerland from the impending horrors of civil discord. At the conclusion of the war with Charles the Bold, Friburg and Soleure contracted an alliance with Zurich, Berne, and Lucerne. This treaty being considered by Uri, Schweitz, Underwalden, Zug, and Glarus, as a breach of the former union, those five cantons refused to receive them. After various disputes and fruitless conferences, the deputies of the eight confederate cantons assembled, in 1481, at Stantz, in order to compromise the differences.

BOTH sides were so heated with mutual animosities, that the deputies were on the point of separating without effecting a reconciliation, and a civil war appeared inevitable. In this crisis of affairs, de Flue no sooner heard, in the depth of his solitude, of those public dissensions which threatened a fatal rupture between the confederate cantons,

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than

than his patriotifm prevailed over his fuperftition; and he quitted his unprofitable hermitage, in order to exert thofe active and public virtues, the very loweft of which fingly outweighs whole years of ufelefs and unrequired mortifications. Accordingly this extraordinary man, having, in the 64th year of his age, travelled during the night, arrived at Stantz on the very morning in which the deputies were preparing for their departure. He earneftly conjured them to remain; and, having prevailed upon them once more to affemble, he fo forcibly represented to them the destructive confequences which would attend their difunion, that they chofe him arbiter of the difpute. By his fole mediation all differences between the contending parties were amicably adjusted; and Friburgh and Soleure were, by his advice, infantly received into the Helvetic Confederacy: fuch was the effect of his perfuafive and conciliatory eloquence! Having thus happily compofed the public diffenfions, he returned to his hermitage, where he died, in 1487, in the 70th year of his age, regretted and efteemed by all Switzerland. Such a general opinion of his extreme piety prevailed among his contemporaries, that the bigotry of thofe times afcribed to him an exemption from the common wants of humanity.

IN the register of the church of Saxelen, the following notice is infcribed for 1485, the year antecedent to his death.

“ In 1417, Nicholas de Flue, a faint, was born in the
“ parifh of Saxelen; who afterwards retired into a defart
“ called Ranft, where God fufained him during eighteen
“ years, without eating or drinking for a long time, namely,
“ when

“ when this was written ; and he is now in good estate, and
“ of holy life.”

ON his tomb is inscribed the following epitaph : “ Ni-
“ cholas de Flue quitted his wife and children to go into
“ the desert ; he served God nineteen years and a half with-
“ out taking any sustenance. He died 1487.” This frivo-
lous epitaph strongly marks the bigotted spirit of that dark
age in which it was composed : the narrow-minded author,
totally overlooking the patriot in the hermit, saw nothing
so truly meritorious in the life of the deceased, as his having
suppressed those social and public energies which dignify
human nature, in order to practise the debasing austerities of
a superstitious religionist.—He ought to have inscribed,
“ To the memory of Nicholas de Flue, who quitted his her-
mitage to appear again in the world ; restored peace and
harmony to the republics of Switzerland, and served God
by serving his country.”

FROM Saxelen we intended to have visited Ranft, de
Flue’s hermitage, and from thence to have proceeded down
the Melchthal and over the mountains to Engelberg ; but
as the evening was already beginning to close, we durst not
venture along so difficult a passage, which would have em-
ployed us at least five hours ; we thought it, therefore, most
prudent to continue our route towards Stantz. We fol-
lowed the foot-paths, which wind agreeably, sometimes
through forests, sometimes over the fields and meadows ; and
passed through a fertile but wilder and more romantic part
of the canton, than that which we traversed in the morning.

We

We continued for some way at the foot of the Stantzberg, crossed a small plain that was formerly a lake, in which staples for mooring vessels are occasionally discovered; and, in about three hours after our departure from Saxelin, arrived at Stantz, in the dusk of the evening.

ABOUT three miles from Stantz is a small wood called the *Kern-wald*, which we passed through in our route from Saxelen: it would not have been worthy of mention, if it did not separate the canton into two divisions, called * *Oberwald* and *Underwald*. Formerly the whole canton was under the same general administration; but the inhabitants of the two districts separating upon some dispute, have since formed two republics, and have each their *lands-gemeind*, or general assembly, their landamman, and council of regency: for the management of external affairs, there is a joint-council, chosen equally by the two divisions; at the Helvetic Diet they send but one deputy, and regulate their vote by mutual consent.

STANTZ is the seat of civil and criminal judicature; and it is worthy of remark, that every male of the age of thirty is permitted to give his vote for the acquittance or condemnation of a criminal. Stantz, the capital of Underwalden, is situated in a beautiful plain of pasture, about two or three miles in breadth, at the foot of the Stantzberg, and at a little distance from the lake of Lucerne. The town and environs, which are delightfully sprinkled with numerous cottages,

* Above the wood, and Below the wood; *wald* in German signifying a wood.

are, for so small a place, extremely populous, comprising, perhaps, not less than five thousand souls. The church is a tolerably handsome building, and is decorated in the inside with ten black marble pillars of large dimensions, but not so beautiful as those at Saxelen. The women in these parts dress their heads in a singular manner, and extremely unbecoming: they wear black-beaver cocked hats, similar to those of the men, with black ears to their caps, which almost conceal their hair.

THE next morning the abbot of Engelberg, having been previously informed of our intended visit, politely sent horses to Stantz; and we rode through a fertile valley, enclosed between the Stanzberg and a chain of hills, until we arrived at Graffen-ort, a small villa belonging to the abbot, about two leagues from Stantz. Here we began to ascend along a road winding by the side of a steep precipice, and through "*unfanned forests*" of beech intermingled with poplar, mountain-ash, Spanish chestnuts, and pines, the torrent Aa impetuously foaming in a stony channel, and forming a succession of cataracts. The wild horrors of the circumjacent rocks, the incessant roaring of the waters, and the solitary gloom of the forest, reminded me of Gray's beautiful Ode on the Grande Chartreuse, in which he describes similar scenes with a sublimity and truth which every person of taste, who travels through these magnificent regions, must feel and admire.

Per invias rupes, fera per juga,

Clivosque præruptos, sonantes

Inter aquas, nemorumque noctem.

ISSUING

ISSUING from the dark forest, we descended for a little way; and unanimously broke into an exclamation of surprise and delight, as we suddenly looked down upon a picturesque plain of an oval shape beautifully wooded, watered by several lively streams, enclosed within a circle of gentle hills, and terminated by a majestic amphitheatre of "*cloud-capt alps*:" toward the extremity of this plain, the abbey, a large quadrangular building of stone, is situated, at the foot of the *Engelberg*, or Mountain of *Angels*, from which the whole district takes its name. On alighting from our horses, the abbot politely received and conducted us into a large saloon, where soon afterwards dinner was served with all the plenty of feudal times, and all the comforts of the present age. The company at table consisted of the abbot, five or six benedictines, ourselves, and our servants, who, according to the custom of the place, sat down to the same hospitable board with their masters. This intermixture of society, the politeness of the worthy abbot, and the facetious cheerfulness of one among the fathers, rendered the repast as agreeable as it was uncommon. After dinner we visited the library, which contains about ten thousand volumes; and, among many rare editions, above two hundred printed in the fifteenth century. I noticed a much larger collection of modern historical and miscellaneous works, than are usually found within the walls of a monastery; which does honour to the taste of the abbot, and proves him to be a warm friend to polite literature.

THE weather being fine and clear, I strayed about the environs; admiring the scattered hamlets, the beautiful tufts
of



J. Smith del.

J. Allen fecit.

Edinburgh

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of wood, and the lively streams which murmur through the plain: of these, one called the Melt-bach, which I observed issuing copiously from the ground, begins to flow on the first melting of the snow in the month of May, and ceases towards the end of September; and the Griesen-bach, that rises at the foot of Mount Blake, runs only from mid-day to the setting sun. Several other torrents, that pour down from the neighbouring glaciers, and numerous springs that burst from the ground near the abbey, help to supply the Aa, which rushes from Suren alps, and, swelled with these tributary waters, hastens to throw itself into the lake of Lucerne. The amphitheatre of cloud-capt mountains, is formed by the Melkleberg, the Arniberg, the Blakeberg, the Spitze-stock, the Suren alps with their brown peaks boldly rising from the bosom of the snow, the Engelberg towering in naked majesty, and, the most elevated and most beautiful in the whole chain, Mount Titlis, supporting on its top an immense glacier.

ABOUT seven in the afternoon we sat down to supper; in the midst of the repast we were suddenly struck with an awful thunder-storm, which, though it could not be called the music of the spheres, or such as, according to the legends of the abbey, was performed on the top of the Engelberg, by a choir of angels, at the consecration of the convent; yet produced a most sublime effect, when re-echoed by the surrounding mountains.

THE abbot of this convent, chosen by a majority of sixteen benedictines, who compose the chapter, is sovereign

lord over the land of Engelberg, a small tract of country about sixty miles in circumference, and under the protection of Lucerne, Uri, Schweitz, and Underwalden. The only habitable part of this district is the small plain in which the abbey is situated, that contains fifteen hundred souls: the remaining portion, being entirely mountainous, affords in summer a retreat to numerous herds of cattle. The abbot, to whom we were indebted for so polite a reception, is Leodigar Saltzman, a native of Lucerne, who, since his elevation to his present dignity, has been a kind and indulgent master: finding many of his subjects extremely poor and indolent, he has excited them to industry; and, in order to assist them during the winter months, when agriculture is suspended, he employs them in winding silk, which he imports from Italy. He possesses very considerable power, which renders him nearly absolute. In all criminal cases he arrests and imprisons; appoints the person who examines; can order, if he thinks it necessary, the infliction of torture; and can pardon or mitigate the sentence given by the tribunal of the country, called *landsgericht*. In civil causes his influence is very considerable; he appoints, from twelve candidates selected by the people, the seven judges, who, in conjunction with the *thalamman* and *statthalter*, form the above-mentioned *landsgericht*, which decides in the first resort: he can also displace them if he pleases; and absolutely nominates all the judges of the *geistlichen-gericht*, or ecclesiastical court, which receives appeals from the decisions of the former tribunal. His power is restricted in the following instances. If he is engaged in a law-suit with an individual, the award of the country tribunal is final; and if with the whole community, the

the question is decided by the four cantons of Lucerne, Uri, Schwitz, and Unterwalden.

HIS revenues amount to about £. 5000; and are derived partly from tythes of certain estates in the free bailliages of Switzerland, from a few feudal rights, but principally from the exportation of cheeses. Beside those which are made on the pastures belonging to the abbey, he purchases others from the peasants of his little territory, and disposes of the whole on his own account. About eighteen hundred cows, including those which are the property of the convent, are possessed by the natives of Engelberg, and annually supply cream for about 10,000 cheeses, each weighing from 25 to 50 pounds, and selling, on an average, for fifteen florins, or one pound five shillings per hundred weight: and it may be calculated that the abbot circulates annually to the value of £. 4000. This revenue, however, cannot be considered as his own private property; for he pays the current expences of the abbey.

SEVERAL ineffectual expeditions having been made towards attaining the summit of Mount Titlis, the most elevated mountain in these parts, and perhaps scarcely inferior to the Schreckhorn and Jungfrauhorn; it was for a long time considered as inaccessible: but, as tradition reported, that in the year 1739, three men had ascended it, Mr. Freygrabend, a native of Engelberg, and physician to the abbot, a few days after my departure from the convent, succeeded in a similar attempt. The following account of this expedition

dition is extracted from a German letter, written by Freygrabend to a friend at Lucerne.

“EARLY in the morning on the 14th of September, the weather being fine and clear, I set out with eleven companions, among whom were Jerom Dopler and Conrad Stocher, two friars of the convent. About two in the morning, after ascending through Gerfchne, and Unter and Ober-laub, we reached, at break of day, the summit of the Laubergrat. Here we enjoyed a fine view over the canton of Underwalden, the lake and canton of Lucerne, the free bailliages of Switzerland, and the canton of Zug. Having taken some refreshment, and reposed ourselves a quarter of an hour, we put on our crampons, and pursued our route, eager like the giants of old, to scale the steep fides of Mount Faulblatten. We continued for about an hour along the piked ridge of this mountain, tottering by the side of tremendous precipices, and twice climbing an ascent almost perpendicular. We could not observe any trace of the smallest vegetation. Having gained the highest point of the Faulblatten, we arrived at a glacier, which being fortunately covered with fresh snow, rendered the ice less slippery than usual.

“HITHERTO our course had been attended with some danger, but from hence we ascended, and reached, with little difficulty, the top of the Titlis, called *Nollen*. But here we were obliged to cross a deep chasm, and to mount the fides of the ice, which were as perpendicular as a wall, by forming

ing steps for our feet with the iron spikes of our poles: below us was a valley of ice about sixteen miles in length, descending rapidly towards Oberhasli. It was now about ten in the morning, and the sun was extremely bright. Having walked a few paces, the prospect was on all sides open and unbounded. This sublime, yet dreary scene, though it surpasses all description, made an impression on my mind which I shall never forget.

“ HERE the painter and poet would find ample and endless employment, if the colours of the former and the conceptions of the latter could resist the effects of the extreme cold. The first objects which caught our attention, were the alps of the Vallais, Berne, and Savoy, with their glaciers and vallies of ice, a majestic and tremendous scene. Among numerous mountains which rose before us, Mont-Blanc, though at some distance, reared its head above the rest; near us towered the Schreckhorn, Wetterhorn, and Jungfrau-horn, but less elevated in appearance than the point on which we stood. Below us we observed a valley of ice about two miles in breadth, and of such immense length, that one extremity seemed to join Mont-Blanc, and the other to be closed by the Titlis. To the east, the Rothstock, the Plangen, and the mountains of Uri, neither so wild nor so elevated as those to the south; and towards the north-west, the eye reposed itself over the less dreary and more cultivated parts of Switzerland, as far as the borders of Alsace and Suabia. Immediately below us we noticed the abbey; and we heard the sound of several mortars, which the abbot ordered to be fired as a signal that we were also seen: by means of a
small

small telescope I observed the fire and smoke; and five minutes elapsed before the sound reached us, not in a straight direction, but re-echoed between the surrounding rocks. We had proposed to kindle a fire, and to let off some hand-grenades, but the cold prevented us from striking fire. Not being able to support its extremity more than three quarters of an hour, although the sun shone very bright, and we kept ourselves in continual motion, we placed a black flag on the highest point.

“ WE were as fortunate in descending as in mounting. We came to the Under-Titlis at half past eleven; to the Laubergrat at one, where we again took some refreshment; and having let off our grenades, we reached the abbey at five in the afternoon. We felt no other inconvenience from this expedition, than that our faces were swelled and our skins peeled, from the reflection of the sun; and that for some hours after my return to Engelberg, I lost my sight and my hearing, both which however I soon recovered. Undoubtedly the Titlis is the highest mountain in Switzerland, excepting Mont-Blanc, to which it is not much inferior.”

It is to be regretted, that this expedition was only a mere object of curiosity; and that the ingenious physician carried with him neither thermometer nor barometer. His assertion that the Titlis is higher than any mountain in Switzerland, will, for this reason, and without farther proofs, admit of much doubt; and its elevation, though very considerable, must be greatly inferior to that of Mont-Blanc; as will appear by considering that the expedition from the plain of
Engelberg

Engelberg to the top of the Titlis was performed in eight hours; whereas Dr. Paccard and James Balma employed fifteen in attaining the summit of Mont-Blanc; and the place from which they took their departure, is probably much higher above the level of the sea than the valley of Engelberg.

August 25.

TRAVELLERS, in going from Engelberg to Altdorf, usually return to Stantz or Buochs, embark on the lake of Lucerne, and proceed the rest of the way by water; but as I had already visited those places, I preferred following the route across the mountains. The morning being obscure and rainy, we were detained till nine o'clock, when the weather clearing up I set out, in company with Messrs. Balthazar and Meyer, of Lucerne. Passing through the plain of Engelberg, we admired, on our left, a fine waterfall which precipitates itself from mount Engel, and in about a league arrived at a cottage belonging to the abbey, where we found two peasants employed in making cheeses, and where we regaled ourselves with some excellent cream. From this point we mounted gently by the side of the Aa, leaving on our right the high Suren alps, whose pointed tops occasionally burst forth amid the clouds and vapours; about a mile from the cottage we quitted the abbot's horses, walked up a gradual ascent, passed a superb cataract of the Aa, and reached a chapel noted in these parts for a small bell, which, according to tradition, was the gift of a French traveller. Near this chapel we observed a hut, which is in the canton of Uri, and from thence the ascent was steeper, but not difficult; we
crossed

crossed many drifts of snow, and were incommoded by a keen wind and frequent showers of sleet, hail, and rain. At length, in about four hours after our departure from the abbey, we reached a cross planted on the highest point; from which elevation we should have enjoyed a most superb view, greatly admired by travellers, on one side towards Uri and the chain of the St. Gothard, and on the other towards Engelberg and the lake of Lucerne, if the weather had not totally obscured the prospect. From this point the Titlis is much extolled for its beautiful and majestic appearance.

FROM hence we descended the Enkeberg into a most barren region, amid a harvest of pointed rocks, and over numerous drifts of snow, and fallen fragments of stone, intermixed with small patches of ruffet herbage, which contributed to render the scene still more dreary. Our descent along a bare slippery rock of slate, or in the beds of torrents, or over large masses of ice and snow, continued above an hour and an half, when we observed several huts lying in a small plain. From their first appearance we concluded that we should presently reach them, but the precipices were so steep, the paths so rugged, and the distance so much greater than we at first imagined, that it employed us above an hour and an half.

THE little valley, in which these huts are situated, is called *Wald-nacht Alp*, contains a small quantity of underwood, and feeds a hundred and thirty-three cows, beside a few sheep, goats, and hogs. The peasants employed in tending the cattle and making cheese, usually arrive on the 20th of
June,

June, and remain about a hundred days: the owner of the hut in which we dried our clothes, makes every day, during that period, two cheefes of twenty-five pounds each, from the milk of eighteen cows. Having taken some refreshment, and recovered our fatigue, we continued along the valley, through some groves of poplars and firs, and at its furthest extremity we came to a single cottage seated on an eminence, the first house on this side which is habitable in winter. A little further we had a prospect of the town and environs of Altdorf; the fertile vale of Schackeren, which, though a very steep ascent, yet from this elevation seemed a level plain; the lake of Uri, scarcely visible, which looked like a small rivulet; and the distant mountains reaching beyond the St. Gothard. The descent, through rich fields and pastures, was extremely steep and tedious, as the grass was rendered slippery by the rain; and we did not arrive at Altdorf till seven in the evening, wet and exceedingly fatigued, but much pleased with our expedition. This passage from Engelberg to Altdorf is estimated at seven leagues. A *chasseur* may perform it in four hours; a traveller accustomed to mountains, in six; and a person unused to such fatigue, will require eight or ten hours.

LETTER 27.

VALLEY OF SCHOELLENEN—DEVIL'S BRIDGE—VALLEY OF URSEREN—VALLEY AND MOUNTAIN OF ST. GOTHARD—SOURCES OF THE TESINO AND REUSS.

St. Gothard, August 9.

SWITZERLAND, indeed, is a most delightful country, and merits the particular observation of the traveller, as well for the diversity of the several governments, as for the wonderful beauties of nature: but the impositions of the innkeepers, and the difficulty of procuring horses *, are inevitable taxes for the enjoyment of these its *delights*. These little inconveniences, however, should be borne with patience and good humour; nor will I trouble you with any spleenetic complaints of those unpleasant circumstances which must occur to all travellers,

ON quitting Altdorf, we passed at first through a fertile plain of pasture, in which the inhabitants were employed in

* I would recommend to all travellers, who traverse the canton of Uri in order to visit the alps, either to hire horses at Lucerne, or to bespeak them against their arrival at Altdorf. If we fortunately had not taken the latter precaution, we should have found no less difficulty in procuring horses in 1785, than in 1776; notwithstanding all the good offices of our landlord at the Black Lion; who, knowing that I was the author of Letters on Switzerland, was extremely anxious to wipe away certain aspersions, which, in the beginning of this letter, seem to glance at his native town. The two Mr. Cliffords, whom we met at Engelberg, and who, to our great satisfaction, accompanied us in our tour as far as Geneva, were obliged to pursue their journey on foot, not being able to procure more than one horse, which was appropriated to their baggage.

mowing

mowing the second crop of hay; and in about nine miles began ascending. The road winds continually along the steep sides of the mountains; and the Reufs in many places entirely fills up the bottom of the valley, which is very narrow: that river sometimes appeared several hundred yards below us; here rushing a considerable way through a forest of pines; there falling in cascades, and losing itself in the valley. We passed it several times, over bridges of a single arch, and beheld it tumbling under our feet in channels which it had forced through the solid rock; innumerable torrents roaring down the sides of the mountains; which were sometimes bare, sometimes finely wooded, with here and there some fantastic trees clothing the sides of the precipice, and half obscuring the river from our view. The darkness and solitude of the forests; the occasional liveliness and variety of the verdure; immense fragments of rock blended with enormous masses of ice; rocks of an astonishing height piled upon one another, and shutting in the vale;—such are the sublime and magnificent scenes with which this romantic country abounds. Near Wafen, is the valley of Meyen; the torrent that dashes through it, and falls into the Reufs, forms a series of most superb cataracts, which the traveller may enjoy by venturing to the edge of the precipice, and supporting himself against an impending pine, that overlooks the gulf.

WE set out this morning early from Wafen, a small village where we passed the night; and continued advancing for some way on a rugged ascent, through the same wild and beautiful tract of country, which I have just attempted

to describe. We could scarcely walk a hundred yards without crossing several torrents, that rolled with violence from the tops of the mountains. This being one of the great passages into Italy, we met many pack-horses laden with merchandise: and as the road in particular parts is very narrow, it required some dexterity in the horses to pass one another without jostling. These roads, impending over precipices, cannot fail of inspiring terror to those travellers, who are unaccustomed to them; and more particularly as the mules and horses do not keep in the middle of the track, but continue crossing from the side of the mountain towards the edge of an abyss, then turn aslant abruptly; thus forming, if I may so express myself, a constant zig-zag.

THUS far the valley of Schoellenen appeared to be tolerably well peopled; and we passed through several villages situated towards the bottom and less narrow part of the valley: the sides of the mountains were occasionally strewed with cottages; covered with forests; or enriched with pastures. Still continuing to ascend, the country beyond Wafen suddenly changing, became more wild and perfectly desert: there were no traces of any trees, except here and there a stubbed pine; the rocks were bare, craggy, and impending; not the least sign of any habitation; and scarcely a blade of grass to be seen. We then came to a bridge thrown across a deep chasm over the Reufs, which here forms a considerable cataract down the shagged sides of the mountain, and over immense fragments of rock which it has undermined in its course. This bridge is called *Teufels-bruck*, or the Devil's bridge. As we stood upon the bridge admiring

miring the cataract, we were covered with a kind of drizzling rain; the river throwing up the spray to a considerable height. These are sublime scenes of horror, of which those who have not been spectators, can form no competent idea: they defy the representations of painting or poetry *.

NOT far from this desolate landscape, the road led us into the *Urner-loch*, a subterraneous passage hollowed through a rock of granite †, which opened at the opposite entrance into the serene and cultivated valley of Urseren: the objects that presented themselves were, a village backed by a high mountain, on the sides of which was a wood of pines; peasants at work in the fields; cattle feeding in the meadows; and the Reufs, which lately dashed over rude fragments of rock in a continual cataract, now flowed silently and smoothly; while the sun, which had been hidden from us in the deep valley, here shone in full splendour. In general there is a regular gradation from extreme wildness to high cultivation; but here the transition was abrupt, and the change instantaneous: it was like the lifting up of a curtain, and had all the appearance of enchantment.

IN this valley are four villages, Urseren, Hopital, Realp, and Zundorf; forming a small republic under the protection

* Many travellers have been disappointed on the *first* view of the Devil's bridge. It ought therefore to be remarked, that the bridge itself, though of difficult execution, is a trifling object, and not so stupendous as many others in Switzerland; and that it is the wild and majestic scenery that astonishes and exalts the beholder.

† This passage was hollowed in 1707, by Peter Moretini, a native of Val-Maggia, at the expence of the inhabitants in the valley of Urseren. It is nine feet in breadth, ten in height, and two hundred and twenty in length.

of Uri. The territory of this little commonwealth is about nine miles in length and two in breadth, and contains about thirteen hundred souls. The people elect, in their general assembly, their *Talamman* or chief, as also some other magistrates: and there is a permanent council of fifteen members, who assemble in each of the different districts. The inhabitants enjoy great privileges; but are not absolutely independent: for in civil causes an appeal lies from their courts of justice to Altdorf; and in criminal proceedings, two deputies from the government of Uri are present at the trial, and deliver to the judges of the valley the opinion of the council of Altdorf.

NOTWITHSTANDING the considerable elevation of this valley, and the coldness of the air even at this season of the year, it produces excellent pasture. The only wood therein, is the small plantation of pines above the village of Urseren, which is preserved with uncommon care and reverence, and a small quantity of under-wood and stubbed willows, that feather the banks of the Reufs. In the adjacent country there are several mines of chrystal; of which a considerable quantity is exported. The language of the country is a kind of provincial German, but almost every person speaks Italian.

THE valley of Urseren is a small plain surrounded by high mountains, covered with pasture to a considerable height, whose tops are barren rocks, in many parts capped with snow. Near the middle of this beautiful plain we turned to the left, and entered the valley of St. Gothard, filled with
the

the ruins of broken mountains ; the Reufs, a most rapid and vehement torrent, bursting through it ; on each side, immense shattered blocks of granite, of a beautiful greyish colour (and of which the summits of these alps are composed) confusedly piled together.

THE valley of St. Gothard, though not so wild as that of Schoellenen, is yet exceedingly dreary. It does not contain a single shed, or produce a single tree ; and the sides of the mountains are barely sprinkled with short herbage. The extremity is closed by the still ruder and naked rocks of the Feudo, supporting in its hollows vast masses of snow, while the superb glacier of the Locendro towers above the adjacent heights. It is about two leagues from Urseren to this place ; but the road, considering the ruggedness of the rocks and the steepness of the ascent, is not incommodious : it is from nine to twelve feet broad ; and is almost as well paved as the streets of London.

WE are now lodged at a house inhabited by two Italian friars from the convent of Capuchins at Milan, who receive all strangers that pass through these inhospitable regions. One of the friars is absent, so that I am in possession of his bed-chamber : it is a snug little room, where any man may sleep very well without being an anchorite ; and which, after the fatigues of our journey, I enjoy with a satisfaction much too sensible to envy the luxury of a palace. Our host has just supplied us with a dinner, consisting of delicious trout, with which the neighbouring lake of Locendro abounds, eggs,
and

and milk, together with excellent butter and cheefe; both made in this dreary spot.

UPON our arrival we were rejoiced to find a good fire; the weather being so exceedingly cold, that I, who was only clad in a thin camlet coat, entered the house half frozen. It is singular to find, at the distance of only a day's journey, such a difference in the climate: the air is absolutely in a freezing state; and I just now passed a boy at work, who was blowing his fingers to warm them. If the cold is so piercing in the midst of summer, how intolerable must it prove in December? The snow begins to fall the latter end of September; and the lakes about this spot are frozen during eight months in the year.

I AM just returned from visiting the sources of the Tesino and the Reufs; which rise within a short distance of each other. The Tesino has three principal sources in the chain of the St. Gothard. The first is a spring which rises towards the bottom of the Prosa, and is entirely covered with frozen snow, or, when that is melted, with fallen fragments of rock, through which it trickles in numerous currents, that unite and help to form a small lake: from this piece of water it communicates with two other lakes, and issues in a more considerable torrent. The lake of La Sella, in another part of the eastern chain, supplies the second source; and the third is furnished by the snows of Mount Feudo. These three sources uniting with another branch, that flows from the Furca through the valley of Bedreto, form one great torrent, which takes its course towards the south, enters the lake

lake of Locarno, and traversing part of the Milanese, falls into the Po. The source of the Reufs is the lake of Locendro, an oblong piece of water about three miles in circumference, which is embosomed between the mountains of Pettina and Locendro, and is almost entirely supplied by the immense glaciers which crown the summit of the Locendro. The stream issuing from this lake rushes down the valley of St. Gothard, and joining in the vale of Urseren the two branches which come from the Furca on one side, and from the Grison mountains on the other, flows towards the north into the lake of Lucerne, and from thence throws itself into the Aar. In allusion to the opposite courses of the Tesino and the Reufs, M. de Boufflers said, that from the top of the St. Gothard, a man might spit into the ocean and the Mediterranean.

WITHIN a day's journey is the source of the Rhine in the Grisons; and about the distance of three leagues, that of the Rhone in the Furca: which mountain we shall pass to-morrow. We are still surrounded by very high, rugged rocks, and inaccessible glaciers; so that our view is much confined; and though I walked above a league towards Italy, in hopes of enjoying an extensive prospect over that delightful country, yet I could observe nothing but rocks, precipices, and torrents.

I AM at this instant near * seven thousand feet perpendicular above the level of the sea: no inconsiderable height,

* According to Mr. de Saussure, the spot upon which the house of the Capuchin friars is built, is 1,061 French toises above the sea.

most certainly. Nevertheless, if I gave credit to those, who assert, that this mountain is the loftiest point of Europe, I should raise myself in idea above twice as high: but I have reason to think, that this opinion is founded upon false calculations. Mikeli, who measured the principal mountains of Switzerland, but who is very inaccurate in his calculations, considers the St. Gothard as the highest; and he estimates its elevation above the sea as equal to 17,600 feet. But the truth is, that, so far from being of that height, it is by no means the highest ground of Switzerland; and there is probably not one mountain, either in Europe, Asia, or Africa, of that altitude. According to General Pfiffer, the summit of the St. Gothard rises above the sea 9,075 feet: an elevation considerably less than that of *Ætna* and *Teneriff*; and still inferior to several mountains in the great chain of alps, to which we are bending our course.

P O S T S C R I P T.

August 1785.

ON my entrance into the little plain in which the friar's house is situated, although the air was exceedingly keen, I did not experience that piercing cold which I felt in 1776: but the day was fine, and the sun shone unclouded. When we arrived at the house, the friar was saying mass to an audience of about twenty persons; many of whom descend from the neighbouring alps, where they are tending cattle, to divine service on Sundays and festivals. At the conclusion of mass, the friar, whose name is Francis, immediately recollected, and received me with great satisfaction. He is well

well known to all travellers that pass this way, having already inhabited this dreary spot above twenty years. Since my last expedition, he has considerably enlarged his house, and rendered it extremely commodious. It contains at present, beside several fitting-rooms, kitchens, and one apartment for the family, nine small but neat bedchambers appropriated to travellers. The expence of this addition has already amounted to £. 300, part of which he collected in various districts of Switzerland; and an equal sum is required to discharge the present debts, and to make the further necessary improvements; which sum he intends to procure by another collection. Friar Francis obligingly accompanied me about the environs, and favoured me with the following particulars, in addition to my former account.

THE chain of mountains, which immediately surround this place, takes the general appellation of St. Gothard; and its particular parts are called by different names; of which the principal are, the Salla, Prosa, and Surecha, to the east; the Feudo, the Petina, and the Locendro, to the west; to the north, the Ursino; and to the south, the ridge of naked and piked rocks of the Val-Maggia. Of these the Feudo is the most elevated: its highest point rises above 2,000 feet above the plain in which stands the friar's house, and requires three hours to reach it. There are six pastures on the neighbouring heights; on which are fed two hundred cows, a hundred and fifty goats, and thirty horses.

ON examining, at mid-day, Reaumur's thermometer, placed in the shade in a northern aspect, I was much surprised to find, that the mercury stood at $6\frac{4}{5}$ above freezing point,

point, or 46 of Fahrenheit, although the northern wind was exceedingly keen, and, if I had judged from my own feelings, I should have concluded that the air was in a freezing state.

ABOUT four years ago, the elector of Bavaria sent to the friar several barometers, thermometers, and other meteorological instruments, which has enabled him to note the variations of the atmosphere, and to form a series of observations, of which he favoured me with the following result. In the most extreme cold he ever experienced in these parts, the mercury in Reaumur's thermometer fell to 19 degrees below freezing point, or—10 of Fahrenheit. In 1784. Greatest heat on the 13th of September, it stood at 13, or $61\frac{1}{2}$ of Fahrenheit. Greatest cold at—17, or— $8\frac{1}{2}$ of Fahrenheit.

M. de Luc's barometer never rose

higher than — 22. 3. 1.

or fell lower than — 20. 9. 9.

IT appeared from observations made in 1784, that the average state of the thermometer and barometer was as follows :

Thermometer.				Barometer.		
Nine in the morning,	}	$2\frac{1}{10}$ of Reaumur, or 28 of Fahrenheit		21	9	2
Mid-day — 0		— or 32		—	21	9 3
Nine in the afternoon,	}	1—3 lines, — or $29\frac{1}{2}$		—	21	9 4

IN the same year it snowed during some part of 118 days; rained 78; cloudy 293; tempest, with hail, 12; thunder and lightning 22; rainbow 4. Halos round the sun 2, and round the moon 2. Serene days 87.

LETTER

LETTER 28.

PASSAGE AND GLACIER OF THE FURCA—SOURCE
OF THE RHONE.

Munster in the Vallais, August 11.

I Arrived here late yesterday evening; and so fatigued that I was incapable of writing: but I am this morning quite refreshed with a comfortable sleep, and in spirits to continue my journal. I took leave of our host of St. Gothard, after having wished him a pleasant winter in that dreary situation; and walked alone, for about two leagues, down the valley of St. Gothard. I frequently quit my company, and either go before, or stay behind, that I may enjoy uninterrupted, and with a sort of melancholy pleasure, these sublime exhibitions of Nature in her most awful and tremendous forms. I entered the valley of Urseren at Hopital; and was again struck with the strong contrast between that cultivated vale and the desolate country I had just quitted. At the same time I enjoyed a magnificent view of the high chain that encloses the vale of Urseren; and particularly noticed the towering rocks, which stand in the country of the Grisons, one of them supporting on its rugged top a glacier, from which the Rhine takes its rise. We passed through the small village of Zundorf; and stopped at Realp, to procure refreshment, and bait our horses. From thence we soon arrived at the extremity of the valley of Urseren; where we began ascending a path so narrow, steep, and rugged, that I could not forbear suspecting we had missed
our

our way, as it seemed almost impracticable for horses : upon their arrival, however, I mounted, being fatigued with my walk from St. Gothard to Realp. It was a single path, up a steep mountain, where a horse, with some dexterity, could just put one leg before the other : and this path sometimes lay upon the edge of a precipice, very craggy and stony ; where, if the steed had happened to stumble, we must both inevitably have perished. But as I knew he had no more fancy than myself to roll down the precipice, I flung the bridle upon his mane, and entrusted myself to his direction. Nor had I any reason to repent of my confidence : for, in the bad and dangerous parts, he never once tripped ; where it was smoother and safer, indeed, he knew he had a licence to be more careless.

WE came at length to a torrent, which we passed by means of a plank, after having got our horses over with some difficulty : a little way farther we arrived at another, deeper and more violent than the former, over which there was no bridge ; nor the least appearance of any track on the other side ; a considerable distance from any habitation ; and our guide unacquainted with the road. After some observation we discovered, that the mountain had lately fallen down, and overwhelmed the path ; leaving only a very faint narrow track on the side of the precipice : along which my companions scrambled upon their hands and knees. While I was crossing the torrent on horseback, I heard a scream ; and turning round, saw one of our servants seized with a panic on the very edge of the precipice, and vehemently exclaiming, that he could neither get backwards or forwards. Nevertheless,

vertheless, with some assistance, he passed over; declaring, at the same time, that he would take care never to put himself again in a similar situation. We now regained a kind of path, but so extremely steep, that we prudently dismounted, and suffered the horses to make their own way. With much difficulty, and after having crossed several large drifts of ice and snow, the torrents at the same time rumbling under our feet; we reached, by a very steep ascent, the summit of the Furca. A number of rugged and forked rocks, piled one above another, have occasioned, it is said, this chain to be called the *Furca*. The country immediately around was as dreary and desolate as the valley of Schoellenen; all vegetation seemed to have ceased: lower down, the mountains were covered with herbage and sweet-scented flowers; near us, but higher, on the left, between the Blaueberg and the Lungnetz, lay a large body of ice, from which issued a torrent *, probably one of the first sources of the Rhone. In a word, the several majestic objects that presented themselves to our view, formed a most astonishing scene.

FROM hence we descended broken rocks and craggy precipices for a considerable way. By this time I was so considerably fatigued, that I was glad to sit down, and take some refreshment, consisting of bread, cheese, and hard eggs; the only provision we could procure at Realp. We were seated by a stream of clear water rippling down the side of a moun-

* I was informed by a friar of Realp, who is much used to travel in these parts, that this torrent, which is turbid in summer, is, in winter, as transparent as the clearest spring; and that when the accumu-

lation of the snow prevents it from flowing under the glacier of the Furca, it then forms a lake, runs over the ice, and rushes to the Vallais with the waters it receives in its course.

tain, so exceedingly steep, that our humble repast would have rolled away, if it had not been well supported. In full view before us was the glacier of the Furca; an immense valley of ice, extending at least three miles in length, and near a mile in breadth between the Gletcherberg and the Satzberg, rocks more shagged, if possible, than any of the neighbouring mountains: it stretches from their feet, fills up the intervening chasm, and reaches almost to their summits. The sun shining in an opposite direction, it glistened like chrystal; while the blue tints, reflected on the surface, appeared inexpressibly beautiful. The ice seemed to break in several parts, as we heard some loud and deep cracks; the torrent of the Rhone at the same time roaring beneath. That river is chiefly formed by this glacier: the small torrent, which bursts from the body of ice between the Blaueberg and the Lungnetz, being joined by several streams, loses itself under the vast arch of ice that forms the bottom of the glacier; issues considerably augmented; and is the great and principal source from whence the Rhone takes its rise. The range of mountains on which we were sitting, was overspread with underwood and herbage; and some cattle were feeding along the heights: a fine contrast to the sterility of the opposite chain; which appeared, for some extent, nothing but bare rock, except where it was covered with ice and frozen snow.

AFTER we had finished our banquet, and reposed ourselves for a short time, contemplating the singularity of the scene; we descended to the bottom of the glacier, where we admired the Rhone breaking forth with violence from the
bed

bed of ice, near the huge fragments of a fallen rock. We followed the course of that river, and proceeded down a mountain so steep, that several parts of the road winding along its sides, were frequently parallel to each other. The scenery of the valley, which we now entered, was of the same nature as that of Schoellenen; the Rhone foaming with amazing rapidity, and falling in a continual cataract at the foot of irregular and immeasurable alps. We travelled through this valley above two leagues, perpetually ascending or descending the rugged sides of rocks; one moment close to the river, and the next some hundred yards above it. At first the rocks were either bare, or studded with a few straggling pines; but as we advanced, they became more clothed with wood and verdure: still, however, we observed no traces of any habitation; and we had now measured at least fifteen miles, from our first quitting the valley of Urseren, without having seen a single dwelling. I was here so struck with the beauty of the forests through which we passed, and the luxuriance of the pasture, that I could not avoid expressing my astonishment on observing no appearance of any habitation in these delightful spots. I had scarcely made the remark, when four or five cottages, situated on the other side of the Rhone, upon a beautiful declivity, announced our approach to the Vallais. Not long afterwards, we unexpectedly came to an opening which commanded an extensive view of that fertile vale, containing several scattered villages. In this very spot a peasant of taste, has built his cottage. Here we quitted the bad road; and descended into the Vallais.

WE had proposed passing the night at Oberwald, after the fatigues of the day: but, upon inquiry, we found it could supply us with no refreshment. The master of a little hovel, which was called an inn, pointed to a large cheese, and told us that was all his provision; it was his bread, his fish, and his meat. Meeting with no better reception at Obergestlen, we continued on to Munster, where we did not arrive till late: here we found an excellent inn for this country, which afforded good bread, and even some meat; but what was far more comfortable to me, a quiet room and a clean bed.

I am, &c.

LETTER

L E T T E R 29.

MOUNT GRIMSEL—SOURCE OF THE AAR—OF THE
CHAMOIS.

Spital upon the Grimsel, August 11.

THE Vallaisans are remarkably attached to their liberty. Upon our quitting Munster, this morning, we joined company with a peasant, with whom we had a long conversation. He demanded our opinion of the country; and, pointing to the mountains, exclaimed: “Behold our walls and bulwarks; Constantinople is not so strongly fortified.” This upper part of the Vallais, I should imagine, is not much frequented by travellers, if we may judge from the curiosity of the people, who all came out to gaze upon us; and when they discovered that we were Englishmen, they observed us with greater attention. But what particularly surprised us was, that the peasant above-mentioned inquired concerning the state of our war with the Americans. It seemed indeed somewhat extraordinary, that a common peasant of the Vallais, should know there was such a place as Constantinople; but it was not less surprising, that he should ever have heard of the contest between Great Britain and her American colonies.

AFTER returning about a league through the same fertile and well-cultivated country which we traversed yesterday, we left the plain, and ascended the Grimsel: one of those

alps which separate the Vallais from the canton of Berne. We employed four hours in climbing a steep and craggy road to the summit; and should have considered the attempt as scarcely practicable, had we not been encouraged by the experience of yesterday. We crossed the several shades of vegetation: in the valley, and the lower parts of the mountain, corn and rich meadows; then forests of larch and pine; next, short grass, together with several species of herbs, that afford exquisite pasture to the cattle; to these succeeded the various tribes of mosses and lichens; and then bare rock and snow. It would be curious to construct, or at least to imagine, a scale of vegetation, according to the idea of a French writer; who asserts, that excessive cold and excessive heat are equally pernicious. The tops of these high mountains are barren, and produce no plants; and at certain heights nothing but mosses and lichens will vegetate: the same occurs in climates where the heat is intolerable; as no other vegetable productions are observed in the burning sands of Africa. The lichens and mosses then, which support the cold better than other plants, would form the first degree of a scale adjusted to determine, how far vegetation accords with the temperature of the atmosphere. The same families of plants, as they bear also the heat much better than any other, would occupy the last degree in the scale above-mentioned. Thus, according to this fanciful scale, the two extremes touch each other surprisingly.

FROM the top of the Grimsel we descended about two miles, and arrived at a small plain or hollow in the midst of the mountains; containing one solitary hovel: and from
this

this hovel I am now writing to you. Notwithstanding the wretched appearance it made at first sight, we found in this desert spot all the accommodations we could wish for, except beds; and these are the less necessary, after our sound sleep last night. Not to mention excellent cheese, butter, and milk (our ordinary fare) we obtained some good wine, a small portion of kid, and a boiled *marmot* *, which we have just devoured; although at another time we should have revolted at the very idea. The landlord is stationed in this forlorn region by the canton of Berne, and he resides in it about nine months. He usually arrives here on the first of March, and retires in the beginning of December. His business is to receive all travellers; upon condition, however, that they pay for their accommodations. When he quits the place, he leaves a certain quantity of cheese, hard bread, salted provision, and fuel, in case any unfortunate wanderer should happen to come this way, when the winter has set in; and we observed long poles fixed on both sides of the track, at small distances from each other, in order to point out the path to travellers, who may chance to pass this mountain after the snow has begun to fall. The road is seldom open for horses before the first of June. Near the house, upon the top of a small rock, our host has contrived a kind of little garden, by bringing some earth from the neighbouring pastures: and this small piece of ground supplies him tolerably well with turnips and cabbages; although, on account of the height of the circumjacent mountains, it does not long enjoy the warmth of the sun.

* See an account of the Marmot in Vol. iii.

Numerous herds of goats are kept, during the summer months, upon these mountains: they are let out every morning to feed upon the pastures; and return every evening before sun-set to be milked and housed. It was a pleasing sight to observe them marching homeward in the same herd; and following each other down the broken precipices, and along the rugged sides of the rocks.

THIS hovel, beside the storehouses for cheeses, contains only a small kitchen, a bed-chamber appropriated to the family, and a room, in which we are now sitting. We occupy nearly one side; the other is taken up by our servants, the landlord and his wife, and half a dozen honest labourers: the latter are partaking of their homely supper, with all the relish of well-earned hunger; and are enjoying a short respite from their toil, with that noisy mirth which characterises this class of people.

THE sources of the Aar are in these mountains. Near our hovel are three lakes that supply waters to that river, which rolls down in an impetuous torrent from the neighbouring glaciers. While dinner was preparing, I walked by the side of that river searching for crystals; which are very common in these parts: we found pieces of divers colours, white, black, yellow, and green. These mountains certainly abound also in rich veins of gold, and other metals; a considerable quantity of gold-dust being found in the bed of the Aar*, and in the various torrents. I can conceive nothing

* It has been suggested to me, that no gold-dust is found in the Aar, until it has received the Reichen-bach,

more fatal to the interests of Switzerland, nor more repugnant to the liberties of the people, than to have these mines of gold or silver traced and opened. A sudden overflow of riches would effectually change and corrupt their manners: and it is an incontestable truth, that the real power of a country, not ambitious of making conquests, is derived less from the wealth than from the industry of its subjects; the happiness of a people, as well as of an individual, consisting in being contented. What a chaos of mountains are here heaped upon one another! a dreary, desolate, but sublime appearance: it looks like the ruins and wreck of a world.

On the Grimsel, August 29, 1786.

You will recollect that, in 1776*, I described the passage of the Furca as extremely difficult, and attended with some danger. But that was my first essay over the less frequented alps. How different are our sensations at different intervals! To-day, on measuring the same ground, though I did not find the road as *smooth as a bowling-green*, I yet never once dismounted; but rode with my Letters on Switzerland in my hand, occasionally making notes and observations: it must, however, be confessed, that in many parts, where a faint path along the crags and impending precipices were scarcely obvious, my situation was not very favourable for accurate composition.

FROM the top of the Furca, instead of immediately descending and pursuing the same road which I followed in 1776, we sent our horses forwards, and ascended the Galle-

* See the preceding Letter.

berg to the upper part of the glacier of the Furca: from thence we looked down upon the Vallais and the Rhone flowing through it, as upon a small field watered by a rill; above and around, as far as the eye could reach, we observed numberless pointed alps, and particularly that stupendous chain called the *Aar-Gletschers*, which comprises, among many others, the Finster-aar-horn, the Wetter-horn, the Jung-frau-horn, and the Schreck-horn.

THE upper part of this glacier of the Furca, is far more beautiful than the lower extremity; the snow is of a more virgin white; the pyramids of ice more bold; and the blue tints more lively and animated. Having enjoyed in different directions this icy scene, we descended near the edge of the glacier, and refreshed ourselves with some water from two transparent springs called *Aughstweicht-brunnen*, that burst from the sides of the rock, at a small distance from each other. We then went down a very steep descent, till we joined the track which I pursued in 1776. I recollected, with a pleasing satisfaction, the torrent, near which we ate on that occasion our humble repast; and came to the Rhone about half a mile below the spot where it bursts in two streams from the bottom of the glacier. In order to have a nearer view, we crossed the streams, which, though scarcely three feet in depth, rushed with such violence, as almost to overturn the guide, who conveyed me across on his shoulders. Having admired the arch of ice, and paid our obeisance to the majestic habitation of the River-God, we walked at the foot of the Satzberg, and noticed several lively springs issuing from the ground, which the inhabitants call *cold waters*; and a little further three warm sources, in
which

which the mercury in Reaumur's thermometer stood at ten degrees above freezing point, or 55 of Fahrenheit. These sources, uniting with several cold springs, fall, within a few paces from their rise, into the great torrent that flows from the glacier, and are usually considered as the *true* sources of the Rhone. That honour is appropriated to these little rills, because, being of an equal temperature in all seasons of the year, they do not owe their origin, like the *cold waters*, to the melted snow and ice, and are as abundant in winter as in summer. It appears, however, extremely inconsistent, to dignify these little streams with the *exclusive* title of the sources of the Rhone; for that river undoubtedly owes its origin and greatness to the perpetual and inexhaustible supplies from the surrounding glaciers.

WE had now employed above nine hours from the time of our quitting the valley of Urseren; and should have continued much longer amid these majestic scenes, if the declining sun had not reminded us of approaching night. Being still at a considerable distance from any habitation, we continued our route, and began ascending the Grimsel, near the warm sources of the Rhone. The track, though extremely steep, and as perpendicular as a man could well mount, was not dangerous, because the rocks were thickly covered with small shrubs, herbage, and mosses. After an hour and a quarter's tedious ascent, we reached the summit of the Grimsel, and descending a rugged ridge of granite rocks, we looked down upon a lake, from which issues a stream that falls into the Rhone. A little further we passed several small rills and dark lakes which supply the Aar; in less than an hour we entered the road which leads

to the Vallais, and came to the place of our destination, the same hovel on the Grimsel, where I passed the night on my former expedition. We arrived there about eight in the evening, after a journey which employed us more than twelve hours.

No situation can exceed the solitary horror of the scenery on the top of the Grimsel. Its appearance resembled the inside of a mine, and seemed as if the bowels of the earth had been violently rent asunder; reminding me of that sublime description in the *Æneis*, when the inside of Cacus's cave is instantaneously laid open by the arm of Hercules.

*At specus, et Caci detecta apparuit ingens
Regia, et umbrosæ penitus patuere cavernæ.
Non secus ac si quâ penitus vi terra debiscens
Infernas referet sedes, et regna recludat
Pallida, Dîs invisâ; superq; immane barathrum
Cernatur, trepidentque immisso lumine manes *.*

On entering the hovel I immediately recognized the same landlord, who was stationed here in 1776, to whom, at that

* *Dryden's Virgil*, Book viii.

The court of Cacus stands reveal'd to sight;
The cavern glares with new-admitted light,
So pent, the vapours with a rumbling sound
Heave from below, and rend the hollow ground.
A founding flaw succeeds; and from on high,
The gods with hate behold the nether sky,
The ghosts repine at violated night,
And curse th' invading fun, and sicken at the sight.

time,

time, I never expected to have owed a second reception in so forlorn a spot. While supper was preparing, a peasant and our guide, forgetful of his great fatigue, suddenly started up at the sound of their favourite air, the *Renx des vaches*, played upon a rebec by a shepherd, and danced several *allemandes*, perfectly in time, and not without grace; a picturesque group of spectators looking on and applauding.

August 30.

THIS morning we made a short excursion to the source of the Aar, which takes its rise in the neighbouring glaciers. In less than half an hour we entered a small plain, skirted by high mountains, and entirely closed by a rugged chain of alps, over which tower the Finster-Aar and Lauter-Aar-horns, and at whose feet stretches a glacier so entirely covered with earth and stones, as to bear, at a small distance, the appearance of a sand-hill. From this glacier issues a "*torrent*" "*roaring loud*" of troubled waters, which is the source of the Lower Aar, and joins, in a few hundred paces, another stream called the Upper Aar, that falls from the Zinkeberg: the union of these two torrents forms the Aar, which rushes over a stony bed with great impetuosity. At present it runs in a narrow channel; but at the first melting of the snow in spring, it overflows the whole space between the mountains, and becomes a temporary lake.

OUR guide is a *chasseur*, who frequently ranges over this vast chain of alps, in pursuit of the chamois, an animal remarkable for its activity in scouring along the craggy rocks, and in leaping over the precipices. He informed me, that

this glacier is the extremity of a valley of ice about twelve miles in length, and from one to four in breadth: it then divides into two branches; one extends towards the Schreckhorn, and the other towards the Vallais. He expatiated with great enthusiasm on the profession of a chasseur, though extremely laborious, and at times dangerous. He usually kills from six to fifteen chamois in a year: with the flesh, which is very delicate, he helps to support his family, and disposes of each skin for a guinea. He uses a rifle-barrelled gun, and generally shoots them at the distance of three or four hundred yards.

THE chamois are very timorous, and consequently watchful animals. They usually go out in herds of twenty or thirty; and while they are feeding, one of them posted on an adjacent height stands *centinel*, and is relieved at short intervals by another. The *centinel* looks around with great solicitude and attention; and on the least suspicion of danger, alarms the herd by a shrill cry; instantly the whole troop decamp, one following the other. The chamois feed on various kinds of herbage, and particularly on the *Lichen Rangiferinus*, or rein-deer lichen, which is found in such great quantities, as in many parts to cover the summits and sides of the mountains. In order to procure their favourite food in winter, they, like the rein-deer, clear away the snow with their fore-feet, frequently thawing it with their breath, for the purpose of loosening it more easily. But when, either from the depth or hardness of the snow, they cannot penetrate to the lichens, they browse on the saplings of pine and fir. In summer their bodies are of a yellowish brown,

brown, and whitish under the throat; the hair is short and smooth: in winter their coat lengthens and grows dark, so as to resemble that of a bear, and entirely to disfigure them. Sometimes, but very rarely, they have been found speckled, or of variegated colours; and lately, a chamois, entirely white, was shot upon the Engelberg. It was in all other respects similar to a common chamois; and it is uncertain, whether it owed its colour to age or accident.

LINNÆUS has classed the chamois in the goat genus, under the name of *rupicapra*, or mountain-goat; his acquaintance with the antelopes having been too slender to enable him to form a genus of antelopes, which Pallas first constructed, and where he has judiciously placed this animal. The example of Pallas has been followed by Pennant and succeeding zoologists.

I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER 30.

VALLEY OF THE AAR—LAND OF HASLI—
MEYRINGEN.

August, 1786.

I FOUND the cold upon the Grimfel more piercing than upon the St. Gothard; and last night it even deprived me of my sleep. But then circumstances were very different in the two lodgings: for on the St. Gothard I had a comfortable bed; whereas, last night, I lay in the hay-loft, without any covering: I declare, my blood has scarcely recovered its circulation. Take notice this is the twelfth of August.

HAVING quitted our wretched abode on the Grimfel, we passed along the valley of the Aar, through an uninterrupted chain of wild, rugged, and uninhabitable alps. The road along this valley, though much narrower than that from Altdorf to the St. Gothard, is formed in the same manner along the steep acclivities and declivities, sometimes laid on arches, and sometimes carried over bridges thrown across the tremendous precipices. It is paved with flat pieces of granite, so smooth and slippery, that the horses would have perpetually stumbled, if they had not been rough-shod. In some parts this road ran along the bare and rugged ridges; in others, down steps, either cut in the rock, or formed by large stones, so that for several paces it resembled a stair-case. The whole surface of the valley

was

was thickly strewed with vast fragments of rock; while those, which still hung on the sides of the mountains, seemed threatening to overwhelm us; the river, during the whole way, thundering along in a continual fall. This valley exhibits the same kind of scenes to which we have been long accustomed; except that the Aar rushes with more impetuous rage even than the Rhone or the Reufs, and is frequently swollen with the torrents it receives in its course, as to ravage all the adjacent country: we saw many marks of these terrible devastations. We crossed it in several places, over stone bridges of a single arch, one of which equalled, in the length of its span and dreariness of the landscape, the Devil's Bridge in the valley of Schoellenen. About three leagues from Spital, we had a glimpse, through the trees, of the Aar falling from a considerable height. In order to gain a nearer view, we climbed along the sides of a steep rock, well covered with moss: I leaned against a tree that impended over the precipice, and saw the river rushing from the rock, and spreading into a semicircular expansion in its descent. It fell with fury into a deep and narrow gulf, and then lost itself in the midst of the forest. The body of water was very considerable, and its perpendicular fall, as far as I could judge by the eye, at least one hundred and fifty feet. The scenery also was solemnly majestic; the grey rocks on each side rising perpendicularly, and totally bare, except their tops, which were fringed with pines. This picturesque scene appeared to realize a favourite image of classic antiquity: as I viewed the Aar pouring its flood of waters from a crevice of the rock, I figured to myself the Nile or the Tiber bursting at once from the urn of a River-God.

IN our way to Meyringen, we traversed large forests of beech and pines, the Aar roaring along the valley, and the road, which was as craggy and rugged as usual, incessantly ascending and descending. We now passed through several small villages, which afforded a pleasing sight, after the desolate country we had so lately quitted; and entered a beautiful little valley of a most lively verdure, and delightfully planted. All was calmness and repose: neither rapid river nor roaring torrent to interrupt the unusual stillness and tranquillity of the scene. This short interval of silence, rendered us more sensibly affected with the turbulence of the Aar and the loud clamour of the cataracts.

FROM this silent and sequestered spot, we descended to a larger valley on the banks of the Aar. Perhaps no other part of Switzerland would yield more delight and occupation to the landscape-painter than this picturesque valley, from the agreeable and ever-changing colour of the rocks which bound it, their summits finely broken into irregular and fantastic forms, and from the variety and size of the fragments dispersed near the banks of the river. Each fragment, each cottage, each shed, each shrub, is a picture; and the effect is considerably heightened by the transparency of the air, and the grandeur of the back-ground.

WE have now visited the sources of three great rivers in Switzerland, and traced their impetuous progress through a tract of country, in which nature has exhibited the grandest and most august of her works. But how impossible have I found it to lay before you adequate descriptions of these majestic,

jestic, variegated, and astonishing scenes! They must all of them upon description necessarily appear much the same: yet, in fact, every river and cataract, every rock, mountain, and precipice, are respectively distinguished by an infinite diversity of modifications, and by all the possible forms of beauty, or magnificence; of sublimity, or horror. But these discriminating variations, though too visibly marked to escape even the least observing eye, elude representation, and defy the strongest powers both of the pen and pencil. In a word, you must not judge of this romantic country, from the faint sketches I have attempted to delineate: for they can no more convey an idea of these wonderful scenes, than if I were to aim at giving some notion of the pictures of Claude or Salvator by informing you, that they are composed of paint and canvass.

MEYRINGEN, a large and neat village, is the capital burgh of Hasliland, a district in the canton of Berne, which enjoys considerable privileges. The people are governed by their own magistrates, and only take oaths of fidelity to the Sovereign Council of Berne. All the authority, which the bailiffs in the other parts of this canton enjoy, is possessed in a great measure by the Landamman; who resides at Meyringen. He is always a native of Hasliland, and is appointed by the Sovereign Council of Berne, at the recommendation of the bailiff of Interlaken. Most of the other magistrates are elected by the people, who assemble as occasion requires, and are convoked by the Landamman.

THE inhabitants are a fine race of people: the men in general remarkably strong and well made; the women tall

and handsome. The women have an elegant manner of wearing their hair, which is commonly of a beautiful brown: it is parted from the top of the forehead, from thence brought round and joined to the locks behind, which either hang down their back in long tresses, are braided with ribband, or woven round the head in a simple plait. But the other part of the dress does not in the least correspond with this elegance; as their shapes, naturally fine, are spoiled by an absurd fashion of wearing their petticoats so high, that they all appear as if they were far advanced in pregnancy.

MEYRINGEN is situated near the Aar, in a very romantic vale; surrounded by meadows of a most luxuriant verdure, and sprinkled with cottages, which are occasionally separated from each other by huge intervening stones and deep channels, the remaining effects of storms and inundations. Close to the village, the Alp-bach, a torrent so called, falls from mount Housli, in two perpendicular cascades, but with so much violence, and in so large a body of water, as to cause frequent inundations: indeed the burgh itself has been in danger of being overwhelmed and destroyed by its repeated ravages; against which, however, it is now protected, by a wall of considerable height and solidity. Near this torrent another fall of water, called the Dorf-bach, glides gently down the bare rock; and further on, the Mille-bach glistened as it descended through a hanging grove of pines, that feather the sides of the mountain.

As I stood on a platform of rock, about fifty feet above the bottom of the Alp-bach, I looked over the delightful vale of Hasli, observed Mount Sheidec rising from the banks of
the

the Aar, and bending itself in one part, as if on purpose to discover three tremendous peaks, rising in regular gradation one above the other; the one a naked conical rock; the second tapering and sprinkled with snow; and the third, which is the highest point of the Wetterhorn, of a pyramidal form, mantled with glistening ice.

THE following is the ordinary price of provisions throughout the mountainous parts of Switzerland.

Butcher's meat, <i>per</i> pound	—	—	o	2½
Bread	—	D°	—	—
Butter	—	D°	—	—
Cheese	—	D°	—	—
Salt	—	D°	—	—
Milk, <i>per</i> quart	—	—	—	—
Worft wine, <i>per</i> D°	—	—	—	—
Pays de Vaud wine	—	—	—	—

By this statement you will perceive, that, in proportion, bread is much dearer than the other articles; and the reason is obvious: for these mountainous parts consist almost entirely of pasturages, and produce little corn. The peasants, inhabiting the mountainous districts of Switzerland, live chiefly upon milk and potatoes, which are here much cultivated. According to the price of provisions in England, those articles will appear exceedingly reasonable: but then it

* The reader will recollect, that this statement was made in 1776, since which time the price of provisions is considerably augmented.

ought at the same time to be considered, that money is very scarce in these parts. Nor indeed is it so much necessary in a country, where there is no luxury; where all the peasantry are tolerably well provided with every necessary of life from their own little domains. I had, to-day, a long conversation with one of the lads who accompanied us from Altdorf, and who takes care of our horses. He lives upon the mountains of Uri; and, as the winter lasts near eight months, during some part of which time there can be little communication between the several cottages, every family lays in sufficient provision for the whole winter. His own family consists of seven persons, and is provided with the following stores: seven cheeses, each weighing twenty-five pounds; a hundred and eight pounds of hard bread, twenty-five baskets of potatoes, each weighing about forty-pounds; seven goats, and three cows, one of which is killed. The cows and horses are fed with hay, and the goats with the boughs of firs; which, in a scarcity of fodder, are given also to the other cattle. During that dreary season, the family are employed in making linen and cloth: and, for this purpose, a small part of the ground belonging to each cottage, is generally sown with flax. That plant has lately been much cultivated, and with increasing success, in the mountainous districts of Switzerland.

THE houses, like those of Appenzel and Glarus, are generally of wood; and it was a natural observation of one of our servants, in passing through a continued chain of rocks, that, as there was no deficiency of stone, it seemed extraordinary, wood alone should be employed for the purposes

poses of building. But it may be remarked, that these wooden houses are sooner constructed and easily repaired; and being formed in a compact manner, with small rooms, and low ceilings, are sufficiently warm even for so cold a climate. The chief objection to them arises from the danger of fire; which, however, is in some measure obviated by the method of building their cottages detached from each other. But this observation does not hold with respect to some of their largest burghs: which must consequently be exposed to the ravages of this dreadful calamity.

I am, &c.

LETTER

L E T T E R 31.

FALL OF THE REICHENBACH—PASSAGE OF THE
SHEIDEC — VALLEY AND GLACIERS OF GRINDEL-
WALD.

Grindelwald, August 13.

WE left Meyringen this morning, crossed the Aar, and mounted the Sheidic through a beautiful forest of beech, poplars, mountain-ash, and pines. About two miles from Meyringen we dismounted at a small village, and passed along some fields in order to view the fall of the Reichenbach, which is deservedly celebrated for its variety and beauty.

THE Reichenbach has its source at the foot of the Wetterhorn; and rolls in numerous cataracts down the steep sides of Mount Sheidec, until it unites with the Aar near Meyringen. The fall of the Reichenbach may be divided into three principal parts.

THE first, which alone is usually visited by travellers, precipitates itself from an overhanging rock, is reduced into spray and foam, and in that state falls in a perpendicular column, at least from an elevation of two hundred feet, into a natural basin, from which it overflows, and is soon lost in
the

the abyfs beneath. The rock itfelf is concave, arched, totally bare, excepting its fummit, which is feathered with fhrebs; and being of black marble, forms a ftriking contrast with the pure whitenefs of the defcending foam. Part of the fpray rebounds on the rock, and glides gently into the bafon in many a filvery current.

THE fecond cataract begins from the overflowing of the bafon; and is moft advantageoufly feen from a large tree which impends on the fides of the precipice. In this part the torrent forms a fecond perpendicular column of water, which is half obfcured, as it dafhes through a chafm of projecting rocks.

THE beft point of view for feeing the third cataract is in a meadow at the bottom of the fecond. From that fituation the whole of Reichenbach feems one immense water-fall: the bottom of the firft, and the top of the fecond cataract, being concealed by the intervening hills. From thence it rolls nearly in a horizontal direction; is divided into two ftreams by a rocky ifland beautifully fprinkled with trees, and impetuously defcends in two unequal bodies. It then dafhes over broken crags of black marble, through groves of beech, mountain-afh, and pines, and rich grounds interperfed with hamlets.

ON viewing the various parts of this ftupendous fall, I was as much interefted and affected, as Ariftæus is represented by Virgil, when his mother Cyrene points out to him
the

the sources of the principal rivers bursting at once from the earth.

*Jamque domum mirans genitricis et humida regna
Speluncisque lacus clausos, lucosque sonantes,
Ibat, et ingenti motu stupefactus aquarum.
Omnia sub magnâ labentia flumina terrâ
Spectabat diversa locis, Phasimque, Lycumque,
Et caput, unde altus primum se erumpit Enipeus,
Unde pater Tiberinus, et unde Aniena fluente,
Saxosumque sonans Hypanis, Mysusque Caicus,
Et gemina auratus taurino cornua vultu
Eridanus, quo non alius per pingua culta
In mare purpureum violentior influit amnis*.*

WE next ascended by the side of the Reichenbach, crossed that torrent over a bridge; and, having traversed several plains, or rather undulating vallies, beautifully sprinkled with ash, poplar, and other large trees, we continued our

* With wond'ring eyes he views the secret store
Of lakes, that pent in hollow caverns roar;
He hears the crackling sound of coral woods,
And sees the secret source of subterraneous floods;
And where, distinguish'd in their sev'ral cells,
The fount of Phasis, and of Lycus dwells;
Where swift Enipeus in his bed appears,
And Tiber his majestic forehead rears;
Where Anio flows, and Hypanis profound
Breaks thro' th' opposing rocks with raging sound;
Where Po first issues from his dark abodes,
And, awful in his cradle, rules the floods.

Dryden's Virgil, Georg. book iv.

route

route at the foot of some enormous mountains, which are called by the general name of Wetterhorn *, or *Stormy Peak*. This enormous group, which forms the Wetterhorn, is peculiarly striking, as well from the naked majesty and grandeur of its rugged peaks, as from its being more insulated than the neighbouring mountains, and because, in passing from Meyringen to Grindelwald, it presents itself the first of this stupendous chain †.

AFTER having ascended about three hours from the time of our quitting Meyringen, we refreshed ourselves and our horses in a delightful vale strewed with hamlets; a sloping hill, adorned with variegated verdure and wood, on one side; on the other, the Rosenlavi and Schwartz-wald glaciers stretching between impending rocks; and before us the highest point of the Wetterhorn lifting its pyramidical top capped with eternal snow. As we were taking our repast, we were suddenly startled by a noise, like the sound of thunder; occasioned by a large body of snow falling from the top of the mountain, which, in its precipitate descent,

* The several peaks of this mountain go under different appellations; and are not ascertained without much difficulty, the peasants usually mistaking and confounding them. One is called the Wetter-horn, another the Nager-horn, a third the Engelhorn, and the highest point takes the denomination of Jungfrau-horn, or Virgin's-horn, for the same reason as the mountain of that name in the valley of Lauterbrunnen, because its summit is inaccessible. Hence several travellers have mistaken this peak for the real Jungfrau-horn.

I have mentioned these circumstances, in order to prevent the confusion of names

puzzling future travellers as they once puzzled me.

The word *horn* in German, which bears the same signification as in the English tongue, is applied to the highest peaks, as in French *aiguille*, or needle.

† To those who go from Grindelwald to Meyringen, the Wetterhorn is the last of this chain. Hence the traveller will not, perhaps, be so much affected with its majesty and grandeur, as if he first observed it in ascending from Meyringen. I mention this circumstance, because all descriptions are *comparative*.

had the appearance of a torrent of water reduced almost into spray. These *avalanches* (as they are called) are sometimes attended with the most fatal consequences: for, when they consist of enormous masses, they destroy every thing in their course; and not unfrequently overwhelm even a whole village. The best security against their effects being the forests, with which the alps abound; there is scarcely a village, if situated at the foot of a mountain, that is not sheltered by trees; which the inhabitants preserve with uncommon reverence, as their common protector. Thus, what constitutes one of the principal beauties in the country, affords also safety to the people.

WE continued our course at the foot of the Wetterhorn, which in this part is so extremely perpendicular and tapering as to appear like half of an immense pyramid. Here we conceived it impossible, that any scenes could be more rude and majestic than those before us; but on reaching the top of the Scheidec, we burst upon a view which so far exceeded them in wildness and horror, that we unanimously exclaimed, "There is the *Schreckborn*, or the *Peak of Terror*." The descent from hence to Grindelwald is gentle but tedious: that village, consisting of numerous cottages, dispersed over the plain and upon the rising hills, exhibits an agreeable and picturesque scene, heightened at the same time by a view of the vallies of ice, which stretch along the steep sides of the mountains in a regular curve, and are beautifully skirted with wood.

THE two vallies of ice, which extend into the plain of Grindelwald, are called the Superior and Inferior Glaciers.

The

The former lies between the Wetterhorn and the Mettenberg; the latter between the Mettenberg and Eger-horn. The Mettenberg is the base of the Schreckhorn; and the Eger-horn, or *Pointed peak*, borders on the valley of Grindelwald, and slopes gradually from barren rock and snow to fertility and cultivation*.

August the 14th.

DARE I confess to you, that I am somewhat disappointed, and that a nearer view of the glacier has not sufficiently compensated for the fatigue and trouble of the expedition? But I have promised to write from my own feelings, and not to send an account taken from exaggerated descriptions.—We sallied forth this morning full of impatience; and arrived at the bottom of the Inferior glacier, forming a majestic arch of ice; from whence issued a loud torrent of snow-water just melted. This glacier is composed of numerous pyramids, which are more elevated towards the plain; being from about forty to fifty feet high, and gradually shortening, until they terminate in a broad surface broken into deep and wide chasms. We mounted a very difficult path at the edge of the frozen region, occasionally passing over the steep and craggy parts of rock almost perpendicular, along the very sides of the precipice: the danger of which makes me shudder even now. This glacier is several miles in length, and is supposed, by many travellers, to join the glacier of the Aar, which I visited in my expedition to the top of the Grimsel.

* For a further account of this chain of alps, which are contiguous to the vallies of Grindelwald and Lauterbrunnen, see Letter on the Chain of Alps observed from Berne.

But the reverend Mr. Wytttenbach of Berne, who has frequently examined its direction from the adjacent heights, assured me, that those two glaciers are separated from each other by a chain of abrupt and perpendicular mountains.

AFTER having employed above two hours in ascending, we were prevented from continuing our progress by rugged rocks, and a rising hill of ice; our guide assuring us at the same time, that it was impossible to proceed any farther. Of this we were by no means convinced; but not having any conductor who could lead the way, and not daring to explore these unknown regions by ourselves, we descended with heavy hearts; much disappointed, that what we had seen, though certainly a very curious and sublime sight, did not equal our expectations: and it added to our chagrin, on being afterwards informed, that though we could scarcely have proceeded further in the direction which we took, yet, that if we had followed another path, we might have penetrated to the Superior glacier, and have reached the base of the Schreckhorn. In that part between the mountains, now occupied by the Inferior glacier, there was formerly a road which communicated with the Vallais, but is at present impassable; and a spot was pointed out to us, now covered with ice, where once stood a small chapel.

WHAT peculiarly distinguishes the glacier of Grindelwald from that of the Furca, is, that the latter lies amid barren and craggy rocks, in a most desolate, dreary, and uninhabited country; whereas this valley of ice joins to a very fertile plain, and borders upon cultivation: in other respects the

Furca

Furca was a much more striking object. Not far from this glacier of Grindelwald, pines, willows, ash, and oaks, grow and come to perfection : and near the borders of the ice I gathered strawberries and wild cherries, and observed hazelnuts, barberries, and mulberry-trees. The valley of Grindelwald is extremely fertile; it produces barley, rye, hay, hemp, and fruit-trees in great abundance, and feeds above two thousand large cattle.

I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER 32.

VALLEY AND GLACIERS OF LAUTERBRUENNEN—
FALL OF THE STAUBBACH.

THE road from Grindelwalden to this place is good, and we met a cart, which to us is become a remarkable object, not having seen any thing that moves upon wheels since we quitted Lucerne. The country is pleasingly diversified with hanging woods, immense rocks, deep precipices, and violent torrents. But I suppose you are by this time as much accustomed to rocks, precipices, and torrents, as the readers of Fingal to blue mists and hollow winds*.

THE valley of Lauterbrunnen is embosomed in the midst of the alps. The western boundary of the valley, from which the Staubbach falls, would in any other country be called an enormous mountain: it here appears only a trifling hill in comparison with the opposite chain, of which the highest point is the beautiful Jungfrau-horn, that stretches in a semicircular direction, and overlooking the adjacent peaks, rises to a stupendous height.

* A nearer and more interesting, but more difficult passage, conducts over the Scheidec from Grindelwald to Lauterbrunnen. In my second expedition into these parts I proposed traversing this passage, and had actually set off for that purpose; but a violent shower obliging me to change my resolution, I continued my journey along the same road as on the former occasion.

It may be proper to apprize the traveller, that there are two Scheidecs, the one separating the vallies of Grindelwald and Meyringen, the other those of Grindelwald and Lauterbrunnen.

WE

WE are now lodged at the house of the clergyman of Lauterbruennen; a little village, or rather collection of cottages, sprinkled, like those of Grindelwald, about the valley and accessible parts of the hills. Near the house, is the celebrated fall of the Staubbach, which I am just returned from viewing. This torrent rolls perpendicularly from so considerable a height, as to resolve itself into fine spray; the greatest part of it falls clear of the overhanging mountain, during its whole descent; but the remainder dashes about half way against a projection from the rock, and flies off with great violence. The clergyman measured, a short time ago, its perpendicular height, and found it nine hundred and thirty feet. The sun shining in an opposite direction, a miniature rainbow was reflected towards the bottom of the fall: while I stood at some distance, the rainbow assumed a semicircular figure; as I approached, the extreme points gradually coincided, and formed a complete circle of the most lively and brilliant colours. In order to have a still finer view, I ventured nearer and nearer; the circle at the same time becoming smaller and smaller; and as I stood quite under the fall, it suddenly disappeared. When I looked up to the torrent, in this situation, it resembled a cloud of dust: and from this circumstance indeed it takes its name; Staubbach signifying, in the German language, a spring of *dust*. I paid for my curiosity, by being extremely wet; but then I had the satisfaction, at the same time, of seeing a rainbow in miniature: no uncommon phenomenon, as it may be observed in any cascade, upon which the sun shines directly in a certain position. In the present instance,

instance, however, it was some consolation to me, that the object happened to be peculiarly striking.

THE next morning we rode to the extremity of the vale, in which there are some noble points of view, and ascended to the glaciers, which stretch from the feet of the Breit-horn and Groff-horn. In this delightful valley many streams * of the clearest water gush from the earth like small rivers, and numberless torrents precipitate themselves from the mountains. I noticed two in particular which fall from a greater height than even the Staubbach, but as their descent is not so direct, they are less extraordinary.

AFTER mounting above three hours, we reached a small hut, which in summer is inhabited by herdsmen, who make excellent cheeses, and tend numerous herds of cows, goats, and swine. Here we feasted upon cold chamois, which our host had provided for us, and concluded our repast with a desert of delicious cream. From thence we ascended still further, with considerable difficulty arrived at the borders of the glaciers, and were entirely surrounded by rugged and almost impassable rocks. We wished to proceed; but our host assuring us, that we had but just time to return before night, we sat down close to the ice, and contemplated, with rapture and astonishment, part of the great central chain of the alps; rocks towering above rocks, and mountains rising above mountains, not more distinguished for their stupen-

* From which circumstance it receives its name, *Lauterbrunnen*, in German, signifying many springs.

dous heights, than for the immense variety and rudeness of their forms. One of the peaks, which is called the Grofs-horn, is of a pyramidal shape, and capped with frozen snow; another, the Breit-horn, is conical, and seems crowned with an enormous mass of transparent ice, from which the reflection of the sun-beams were inexpressibly beautiful. But the most elevated and most majestic of the whole group, is the Jungfrau-horn, or Virgin's-horn, which takes its name of *virgin*, because its summit is inaccessible.

THE hollows between the mountains are filled with large vallies of ice, broken into a great variety of shapes; and several torrents bursting from the snow, and uniting in their course form the Weifs-Lutchine, a river which rolls rapidly through the valley of Lauterbruennen, joins the Schwartz-Lutchine, which flows from Grindelwald, and falls into the Aar. Many of the mountains are covered to a great height with verdure, on which the eye reposes with delight amid the horrors of such wintry scenes. We observed also, at considerable elevations, several small villages, the access to which must be almost as difficult as to the glaciers to which we ascended.

NOTWITHSTANDING, however, the magnificence and variety of this curious scenery, and the uncommon phænomenon of ice and snow in the midst of summer, bordering on forests and cultivation; yet I must again repeat, that the ideas which we had previously conceived, from exaggerated

accounts, concerning the boundless extent and magnificent appearance of the glaciers, were not sufficiently answered. It is remarkable, that every object in Switzerland has more than gratified our expectations, except the glaciers; which must, nevertheless, be considered as forming one of the most interesting phænomena in the whole country. This disappointment seems to have been occasioned by the turgid accounts which we had heard and read of the glaciers of Grindelwald and Lauterbrunnen; and we were led to suppose, that the glacier of the Furca was much inferior in magnitude to those of Grindelwald and Lauterbrunnen; when, in fact, it was in all respects equal, if not superior, to them.

P O S T S C R I P T.

September 1, 1785.

IN 1785, I was considerably more delighted and astonished with the vallies of Grindelwald and Lauterbrunnen than in 1776; because my imagination was not, in this as in the first instance, exalted by exaggerated descriptions, and led to expect more than could be reached, even by nature herself, however prodigal in these her sublimest works. But the vallies of ice still appear to me inconsiderable objects, when viewed at some distance, and compared with the surrounding mountains, whose summits and sides are clothed with vast regions of ice and snow. On a nearer approach they become more interesting, particularly when they are broken into abrupt ridges,

ridges, and immense chasms; and when their aggregate mass, and numerous branches, are observed from the surrounding heights. Still, however, the traveller may be disappointed, whose imagination has been previously filled with turgid descriptions; or who apply to the vallies of ice that sublimity and magnificence, which are only due to the alps above and around them.

L E T T E R 33.

LAKES OF THUN AND BRIENTZ—PASSAGE OF
MOUNT GEMMI—BATHS OF LEUK.

THE nearest route from Lauterbruennen to the Baths of Leuk, leads across the mountains to Kandersteig. It is called *le chemin vert*, or the *green way*, because the rocks are, for the most part, covered with herbage. It is only practicable to foot-passengers; and I was informed by a Swiss gentleman who passed it, though steep and difficult, that it is not dangerous. Its distance may be about three leagues, and, to a person not wholly unaccustomed to alpine passages, would require about five or six hours. A *chasseur* would perform it in less than half the time. In my second expedition, in 1785, I had proposed crossing this way; but was obliged to decline it, as I could not procure a guide who was acquainted with the road.

I PURSUED, therefore, the usual route, which runs from the entrance of the valley of Lauterbruennen, through a fertile plain, between the lakes of Thun and Brientz. About two leagues from Lauterbruennen, I came to the Aar, near the spot where it issues from the lake of Brientz, and followed its course until it entered the lake of Thun, so called from a town of that name, situated upon its north-western extremity. This lake is about four leagues long and one broad; and, if we may judge from the steepness of the mountains
with

with which it is bounded, must be very deep: the borders are richly variegated; and present several fine points of view, greatly heightened by many rugged rocks rising boldly from the edge of the water. We coasted this lake, through a delightful country, to the small village of Leisingen; then ascended to *Æschi*, from whence we looked down upon the lakes of Thun and Brientz. In all the maps of Switzerland, which have fallen under my observation, these two lakes are represented as if they extended almost in a straight line; whereas they are situated nearly at right angles to each other. You may judge of their true position, by the annexed engraving, communicated to me by the Reverend Mr. Wyttenbach of Berne.

HAVING descended from *Æschi*, we soon entered the rich valley of Frutigen, parallel to that of Lauterbrunnen, and enjoyed, for a considerable way, a prospect of those glaciers we had visited the day before. This valley ends at the small town of Frutigen: from thence commences that of Kander, watered by a river of the same name, and bounded by mount Kander. In all these vallies, the rudeness and height of the mountains, which almost enclose them, contrasted with the beauty and fruitfulness of the plains, always fertilized by some lively torrent, form a thousand picturesque scenes, ever changing, and impossible to be described: and they are still further embellished by the number of ruined castles perched upon points seemingly inaccessible.

THE road continued good as far as the village of Kandersteg; from whence delicate travellers, who do not chuse to
mount

mount a rugged ascent, either on foot or on horseback, are carried in an arm-chair supported by means of poles upon men's shoulders. We proceeded, however, on horseback, having before rode up steeper and more difficult paths. After having ascended about an hour and a half, we arrived at the summit of the Kander, where a wooden cross marks the entrance into the Vallais; then traversed a waving plain of pasture, in which we observed a few huts and several herds of cattle; and at length reached a single house on the Gemmi, where we procured some refreshment: here we saw nothing but immense rocks piled upon one another, with no appearance of vegetation; and the weather was exceedingly cold. We then passed over a large drift of snow, and came to a lake called the Dauben See, about a league in circumference, supplied by a considerable torrent from a neighbouring glacier. This lake has no visible outlet; but doubtless finds a subterraneous passage into the *Vallais*.

THE chain of mountains, which here separates the canton of Berne from the Vallais, is called the Gemmi: from the point of which, overlooking and almost over-hanging the Vallais, we had at once a most extensive prospect over that fertile country, and the rugged alps of Savoy. The mountain which we descended, is in many places almost perpendicular; and yet a horse-road has been formed in the hard rock down this very formidable descent. It was begun in 1736, and finished in 1741, at the joint expence of the Vallais, and the canton of Berne: an astonishing work! which proves that nothing is impracticable to human industry. More than a league has been blown up with gunpowder, and
a way

a way formed which seems dangerous to those, who are unused to mountainous countries, or whose heads are apt to turn giddy. It is about nine feet broad, and hangs over the precipice: in some parts, for a considerable space, it is a hollow way, open only at one side, the rock above projecting over it, of the same breadth, and in the same direction. The effect is peculiarly singular: for, as the road winds continually, the scene also continually changes; so that one moment we commanded an extensive view, and the next were enclosed with barren rock.

THE descent from the top to the plain, is about two leagues: when you are arrived at the bottom, and look up, you cannot observe the smallest traces of a road; so that a stranger would hardly believe it possible, that a passage has been formed down the rock, until convinced by his own experience. About thirty years ago, the troops of Berne descended this road for the purpose of assisting the canton of Uri against the inhabitants of the valley of Levino, who had revolted; and, what is almost incredible, they descended with heavy artillery.

THIS place is famous for its hot medicinal springs; and is much frequented by invalids of various kinds, during this season of the year: the patients either bathe or drink the waters. As far as I can judge from the accounts which I have received concerning their warmth, their analysis, the method of using them, and their efficacy in curing the gout, rheumatism, obstructions, and cutaneous disorders; they seem nearly to resemble those of Bath. There are several
springs,

springs, of different warmth and of different qualities: according to the most accurate experiments made by the Rev. Mr. Wyttenbach, the mercury in Fahrenheit's thermometer, when plunged into the principal source, stood at 115; and at 120 in the spring which flows near the bridge over the Dala.

THE accommodations for the company are very inconvenient: each person having for his own use a small apartment not more than a few feet square; in which there is just room for a bed, a table, and two chairs. The public dining-room is upon rather a larger scale, as is also an apartment where the company occasionally assemble. Formerly the accommodations were tolerably good; but unfortunately, in 1719, an *avalanche* fell with such impetuosity from a neighbouring glacier, upon the village, as to overwhelm the greatest part of the houses and the baths, and to destroy a considerable number of the inhabitants.

THE company, consisting of persons from different quarters of Switzerland, are exceedingly affable and obliging: inasmuch that several of them have invited us to their respective houses; and this invitation was made with that openness and unaffected frankness so peculiarly characteristic of the Swiss. We dined this morning at eleven; the bell for supper is now ringing, and it is scarce seven. These are primitive hours: but we have travelling appetites; and, provided we meet with refreshment, the hour and place are of little consequence.

You

You are now probably drinking tea in your withdrawing room at Bath, from whence you are enjoying that beautiful prospect I have so often admired. The situation of this spot is more romantic, and the waters perhaps not less efficacious: yet this village contains only a few miserable houses, while Bath is one of the finest towns in Europe. I had a conversation to-day upon this topic, with a very ingenious and well-informed gentleman of the Vallais. I observed to him, that, considering the great credit and efficacy of these waters, I could not forbear wondering, that the chiefs of the republic had not considered the improvement of the accommodations, an object worthy of their attention; for, if they were rendered more convenient for the reception of invalids, it would undoubtedly be the means of drawing a great number of strangers; and consequently must be highly beneficial to the country. He assured me, it had more than once been in contemplation; but that some persons of great credit and authority opposed all improvements, upon a principle similar to the policy of Lycurgus; conceiving that a concourse of strangers would only serve to introduce luxury among the inhabitants, and insensibly destroy that simplicity of manners, for which the *Vallaisans* are so remarkably distinguished.

How far the ignorance of a people contributes to their true felicity? or how far a simplicity of manners may be corrupted by *national* improvement? are questions which have been much agitated; and will never be decided, so long as it shall be held just reasoning to argue from the abuse against the use. But it will readily be allowed, that super-

stition is ever the companion of ignorance; and that a people who are both ignorant and superstitious, must necessarily be benefited by an intercourse with nations more improved and enlightened than themselves.

WE walked to a spot not far from hence, where a communication has been formed with the village Albenen. Where the mountain inclines towards a slope, a foot-path has been cut; but in those parts where the rock is directly perpendicular, ladders are placed; and the peasants ascend and descend with heavy burdens upon their shoulders. We counted seven of these ladders. I mention this circumstance, not as being an object so remarkable, perhaps, as is represented by some travellers; but as it will convey to you an idea of the extreme ruggedness and singularity of the country.

I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER 34.

REPUBLIC OF THE VALLAIS—CARDINAL SCHINNER
—TOWN OF SION—MARTIGNY—ST. MAURICE.

Sion, August 19.

SION being nearly the point where the German language terminates, and where the French begins; the natives in this part of the Vallais consequently speak both tongues. We set out this morning at five, and came down a very steep valley to Leuk, a small town built upon an eminence near the Rhone: that river is here very rapid; and, if we may judge by the breadth of the channel, often overflows its banks. We crossed it at this place, and continued for some way through a forest of firs, till we again passed the river to Siders: from thence we coasted its banks to Sion, the capital of the Vallais.

THERE is another road leading from the Baths of Leuk to Siders, which I traversed in 1785, more steep and incommodious, but far more interesting to the traveller, who delights in picturesque views. It is called the *galleries*; is cut along the sides of an abrupt and rugged rock, in a zig-zag direction, and protected by a wooden railing, which overhangs a dreadful abyss, so deep and obscure, that the river Dala, which rolls impetuously through it, is neither seen nor heard. The opposite chain of mountains is clothed with dark forests, enlivened with pastures, and interspersed

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with

with occasional villages, which are situated one above the other, to a considerable height, and seem scarcely accessible but to foot passengers.

THIS tract of country called the Vallais, stretches from east to west about a hundred miles; and contains about 100,000 inhabitants, who all profess the Roman Catholic religion. It is divided into Upper and Lower Vallais: the former reaches from the Furca to the Morge, below Sion; and the latter from that river to St. Gingou, situated upon the lake of Geneva.

THE Upper Vallais is sovereign of the Lower Vallais; and comprises seven independent *dixains* or commonwealths; namely, Sion, Goms, Brieg, Visp, Leuk, Raren, and Siders: of these Sion is aristocratical, and the others democratical. They are called *Dixains*, because the Upper Vallais being divided into seven, and the Lower into three districts, each division is a *dixain*, or *tenth* of the whole.

THE bishop of Sion was formerly absolute sovereign over the greatest part of the Vallais; but his authority is at present limited to the following prerogatives. He has the sole power of pardoning criminals; and signs all the warrants for execution: the money is coined in his name, and with the arms of the republic. In his acts he styles himself bishop of Sion, prince of the German empire, and count and præfect of the Vallais: in days of high ceremony he dines in public, and is waited upon by the first noble of the Vallais, who is hereditary treasurer. He nominates the bailifs or governors

nors of the two bailliages of Martigny and Arden; and possesses considerable influence from his patronage of church preferment. Upon a vacancy in the see, the canons of the chapter of Sion present from their own body four candidates, from whom one is appointed bishop by the *Landsrath*, or general diet.

THE seven dixains form, conjointly with the bishop, the republic of the Vallais; and all affairs are transacted in the diet, called *Landsrath*, which meets twice every year at Sion. This assembly consists of nine voices; the bishop; the *lands-bauptmann*, who is chosen or confirmed by the diet every two years; and the seven communities. The bishop presides, and the *lands-bauptmann* collects the votes; and all resolutions are decided by the majority. Each dixain, although it has but one vote, sends as many deputies as it pleases: they generally consist of four;—a judge, a banneret, a captain, and a lieutenant. The judge and the lieutenant are appointed every two years; the two others hold their offices for life. In all civil causes of a certain importance, an appeal lies to the diet in the last resort, from the inferior courts of justice in the several dixains. Thus, by the institution of this supreme council, the several communities in this country are firmly united, and form in conjunction one body politic, or republic, for the general affairs of the nation. In other cases, each of the commonwealths is governed by its own particular laws and customs.

BOTH the Upper and Lower Vallais were formerly dependent upon the bishop of Sion; but the inhabitants of the

two

two districts united in order to limit his power; and, having succeeded in the attempt, they quarrelled among themselves for the superiority. A bloody war ensued; which terminated, in 1475, by the total defeat of the Lower Vallaisans. Since that period, they have continued subject to the Upper Vallais; enjoying however some very considerable privileges.

THE republic of the Vallais is an ally of the thirteen cantons; and has formed a particular league with the seven Catholic cantons, for the defence of their common religion.

THE bishops of Sion had formerly a considerable influence over the political affairs of Switzerland; and Matthew Schinner, the cardinal bishop, is famous in history for his great abilities, his daring spirit of intrigue, and his turbulent and restless ambition. He was born at Milbach, in the diocesan of Goms; and in 1500 was appointed bishop of Sion. It was entirely owing to his representations and influence, that the Swiss troops gave a singular instance of infidelity to their public engagements, by breaking a treaty which they had just contracted with Francis the First. When that monarch invaded the Milanese, he endeavoured to gain the Swiss; who having taken the duke of Milan under their protection, were the only obstacles to the progress of his arms. After much hesitation, they were prevailed upon, by the offer of considerable subsidies, to enter into a treaty: but the alliance was no sooner concluded, than the cardinal of Sion persuaded them to break it, and continue the war. The Swiss historians however record, with triumph, the
patriotic

patriotic conduct of two officers upon this occasion; who, remonstrating against this breach of faith, drew off eight thousand troops; and returning to Switzerland, in some measure retrieved the honour of the nation. The remainder of the army, instigated by the plausible and artful eloquence of the cardinal, engaged Francis the First near Marignano, in one of the most furious and obstinate battles that was fought during the bloody wars of Italy. Night alone put a stop to the engagement, without separating the combatants; both armies were blended upon the field of battle: and Francis slept upon the carriage of a cannon, at no great distance from a battalion of the enemy. At day-break the Swiss renewed the charge with their usual courage, and were received with equal bravery. At length the intrepidity of the king, and the desperate valour of the French, rose superior to the furious and repeated attacks of the Swiss; who retreated to Milan, leaving Francis in possession of the field of battle: an advantage, however, which he gained by the loss of his bravest troops.

THE cardinal, actuated by the most inveterate enmity to the French, occasioned also, by his sole intrigues, the loss of the Milanese to Francis. Lautrec, in the year 1521, commanded a body of 12,000 Swiss, who formed the principal strength of his army. On the other side, the cardinal had obtained, by his influence over his countrymen, a secret levy of the like number, to join the enemies of France: and thus, for the first time, the Swiss were seen combating under opposite banners, and ready to commit hostilities against each other. Upon this occasion the cantons immediately dispatched

dispatched messengers, with peremptory orders for the Swiss in both armies, to return to their country. The cardinal bribed the messengers to conceal these orders from the Swiss in the army of the confederates, and to deliver them only to those who were in the French service. The latter obeyed accordingly; and this desertion weakening the army of Lautrec, Milan, and the principal towns, surrendered to the confederates. Soon after this additional instance of his intrigues and influence, the cardinal ended his turbulent life in the conclave, which assembled on the death of Leo the Tenth, for the election of a new pope,

THE inhabitants of this part of the Vallais are much subject to *goiters*, or large excrescences of flesh that grow from the throat, and often increase to a most enormous size: but what is more extraordinary, idiocy also remarkably abounds among them. I saw many instances of both kinds as I passed through Sion: some idiots were basking in the sun with their tongues out, and their heads hanging down; exhibiting the most affecting spectacle of intellectual imbecility that can possibly be conceived. The causes which produce a frequency of these phenomena in this country, is a curious question, which very much excites my inquiry: but I shall defer giving my opinion, until I shall have obtained farther information,

THE weather in this enclosed vale is so exceedingly hot, that I am at this instant, although the evening is far advanced, quite oppressed with the extreme sultriness. This languid heat is probably one of the causes, which occasion the
inconceivable

inconceivable laziness and indolence of the inhabitants: much, however, must at the same time be attributed to the richness of the soil; which prevents labour by almost spontaneously producing the fruits of the earth. In fact, the people assist nature very little: we passed several vineyards, in which the vines were suffered to trail upon the ground; whereas, if the branches were properly raised and supported, the owner would be well rewarded by the superior quantity and quality of their produce.

THE uncleanness of the common people is disgusting beyond expression. I have just been holding a conversation upon this subject with my landlord; who, though himself a notorious example, yet severely censured the dirtiness of his countrymen; and seemed to assign it as one cause of *goiters*. This assertion induced me to examine the person of my host with somewhat more attention, in order to discover how it stood with himself in that respect; and I was rather disappointed to find, that he proved an exception to his own remark. Let me not, however, be understood as insinuating that the inhabitants in general are either goitrous, indolent, or dirty; like that traveller who asserted, that all the women of a certain town were crooked, red-haired, and pitted with the small-pox, because his landlady happened to be so. Indeed, I look upon national reflections in general, to proceed from the narrowest and most illiberal turn of mind; and have always been cautious not to judge of the physical, or moral character of any people from a partial and superficial view. But as to the singular prevalency in the present in-

stance, of goiters and idiocy, it is a fact which I can venture to affirm, both from my own experience, and from various conversations I have held with several men of learning and observation of this country; and the general dirtiness and indolence of the common people are too notorious to escape the observation of the most careless traveller.

SION is situated near the Rhone, at the foot of three insulated rocks, that rise immediately from the plain. The highest, called Tourbillon, supports the ruins of the old episcopal palace, still containing two or three untenanted apartments, in one of which are the portraits of the several bishops. On the second rock, denominated Valeria, are observed the remains of the old cathedral, and a few houses belonging to the canons. On Mayoria, the third rock, stands the episcopal palace, an antient edifice of stone, built in 1547. On seeing the apartments, I was greatly struck with their plainness, and could not avoid reflecting with pleasure on the simplicity of manners, which must necessarily prevail in this country; when the rooms, inhabited by the sovereign, instead of bespeaking the magnificence of a court, are scarcely superior to the dwelling of a peasant. Two apartments principally engaged my attention. The first is that in which the Diet assembles: at the upper end are two armed chairs for the bishop and the *lands-bauptmann*, and on each side a row of smaller seats for the deputies of the seven *dixains*. The other apartment is the hall, in which the bishop holds his court, like the feudal lords of antient times: at the further extremity is a raised seat, called a throne, surrounded by a wooden balustrade; and,



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W. B. R.

and, as an incitement to wisdom and impartiality, the figures of Justice, and the story of Solomon's judgment, are coarsely painted upon the walls.

SION is an antient town, and was formerly the capital of the *Seduni*, who inhabited this part of the country in the time of Julius Cæsar. A few remaining inscriptions still prove its antiquity ; and, among others, so obliterated that I was not able to decypher them, I observed one which is more legible : it is in honour of the emperor Augustus, during his eleventh consulship. In this inscription the town is called *Civitas Sedunorum*.

AT Sion we parted with our horses and guides, who had accompanied us from Altdorf ; and procured a piece of luxury, to which we had been for some time unaccustomed ; I mean a coach. But, notwithstanding the concentrated heat of the climate, and the great sultriness of the air, I prefer riding or walking ; as by that means I enjoy a more unobstructed view of the country : and indeed the scenes are so beautiful, and so perpetually changing, that the attention is every moment engaged by a variety of new objects that strongly demand admiration.

UPON entering the Lower Vallais, I perceived as much uncleanliness, but a greater appearance of industry ; and I am informed, that the natives are not altogether so indolent as the inhabitants of Sion and its environs. This imputation of indolence will not hold good with respect to all the inhabitants of the Upper Vallais : for in the eastern part of that district, which we entered after having crossed the

Furca, the foil, though far inferior in richness and fertility, was much better cultivated; and the people seemed industrious. Some physical reasons may be assigned for this difference; for, *there* the weather is not so sultry, the water is not unwholesome, and the air is remarkably salutary. Accordingly, upon our first entering the Vallais, we did not observe any of those goitrous persons or idiots, who struck us so much in the midland parts.

WE stopped at the village of Martigny, which, according to antiquarians, was the antient *Octodurum*. It is said, that near this place may be traced the site of Sergius Galba's camp, one of Julius Cæsar's lieutenants, who was sent by that general to subdue the *Veragri*, the *Nantuates*, and the *Seduni*; the antient inhabitants of these districts. It seems evident indeed from Cæsar's description, in the third book of his Commentaries, that *Octodurum* could not be far from the present situation of Martigny; which stands in a small plain, encircled by high mountains, and divided by the Dranse, that falls into the Rhone. I cannot however ascertain from my own observation, whether any traces of a Roman encampment still remain; nor could I gain the least information from the inhabitants; so that the conjecture concerning the situation of *Octodurum* rests only upon the faith of antiquarians, and on the general position of the country.

MARTIGNY is a place much frequented by travellers: it leads to the valley of Chamouny, to St. Maurice and the lake of Geneva, and is the passage of the merchandize, which is conveyed

conveyed over the Great St. Bernard into Italy. Near Martigny we passed under the majestic ruins of La Bathia, an old episcopal castle, standing upon the summit of a craggy rock, and impending over the impetuous Dranse. The road from hence to St. Maurice runs under a chain of rocks, the Rhone flowing at a small distance through the middle of a fertile vale. Having crossed the Trient, a turbid torrent which issues from a narrow and obscure glen, remarkable for its rugged and romantic scenery, we arrived at the Pisse-Vache, a cataract much noticed by travellers. The characteristic beauty of this fall is, that it seems to burst from a cleft in the middle of the rock, through hanging shrubs that start abruptly from the crevices, and forms a perpendicular column of water about two hundred feet in height. The body of water being very ample, and the elevation not so considerable as to reduce it entirely into spray, render the effect very striking. I enjoyed also the additional pleasure of seeing the sun rise opposite to this water-fall. The regular expansion of the rays enlightening the different parts of the column of water; and the gradual descent of the rainbow formed by the spray, were inexpressibly beautiful. These torrents are my delight: but perhaps they recur too often in my letters to continue to be yours. Formerly travellers passed close to the Pisse-Vache; but a few years ago part of the rock falling down totally obstructed the road, which now runs through the middle of the valley. I now traversed on foot, not without some difficulty, amid the fallen fragments, where, on a former occasion, I had passed in a carriage.

At the extremity of the Lower Vallais, the two chains of mountains that bound this country, approach towards the
Rhone,

Rhone, which nearly fills the interval between them. In this spot is situated the town of St. Maurice, built almost totally upon the rock, at the foot of some steep mountains, and at a small distance from the river. Its antient appellation was *Agaunum*: it takes that of St. Maurice from an abbey, erected in the beginning of the sixth century, by Sigismund king of Burgundy, in honour of a saint, who is supposed to have suffered martyrdom in this place. This saint was the leader of the famous Theban legion, which is recorded to have been massacred by order of the Emperor Maximin, for not renouncing Christianity. This history has given rise to much controversy: while some authors have treated it as a mere forgery; others have contended for its authenticity, with as much warmth and zeal, as if the truth of Christianity depended upon the decision. Without entering into the merits of the controversy; I cannot but remark, that the cause of Christianity has suffered more from weak and imprudent defenders, than from the sharpest attacks of its most inveterate adversaries. Indeed, the question concerning the number and sufferings of the martyrs, has occasioned much idle disputation: for, reduce the popular accounts of both as low as probability can reasonably carry them, there will still remain sufficient evidence of the wonderful constancy and calm resolution of those primitive victims: and whether a hundred thousand, or only fifty, suffered for the cause of Christianity, it will equally stand upon the same firm and immoveable foundation. Nor is the inquiry more material concerning the motives that actuated its powerful and cruel adversaries. It matters not whether Decius ordered the Christians to be massacred, because they had been favoured
by

by his predecessor Philip, or from his attachment to the Pagan rites; whether Maximin persecuted them from interested motives; Dioclesian as introducing innovations in his government; or whether Constantine protected them from conviction or policy. For the truth of Christianity is in no respect affected either by the imprudence of its early professors (if with any they were justly chargeable) or the political reasons that influenced the conduct of those emperors.

A FEW Roman inscriptions, chiefly sepulchral, and two defaced columns, are the only uncontroverted remains of the antiquity of St. Maurice. It is principally distinguished as being the chief entrance from the canton of Berne into the Vallais. This entrance is formed by a narrow pass, so strongly fortified by nature, that a handful of men might defend it against a considerable army.

THE stone bridge over the Rhone is much admired for its bold projection: it is of a single arch, and the span is a hundred and thirty feet. Half of this bridge belongs to the Vallais, and the remainder to the canton of Berne.

I am, &c.

LETTER

L E T T E R 35.

OF THE VALLAIS—GOITERS AND IDIOTS.

Trient, August 22.

I AM now writing from the village of Trient, on my way to Mont Blanc and the alps of Savoy. From the mountain of the Furca, its eastern boundary, two vast ranges of alps enclose the Vallais: the southern chain separates it from the Milanese, Piedmont, and part of Savoy; the northern divides it from the canton of Berne. These two chains, in their various windings, form several small valleys, watered by numerous torrents that rush into the Rhone, as it traverses the whole district from the Furca to St. Maurice. A country thus entirely enclosed within high alps, and consisting of plains, elevated valleys, and lofty mountains, must necessarily exhibit a great variety of situations, climates, and productions. Accordingly, the Vallais presents to the curious traveller a quick succession of prospects, as beautiful as they are diversified. Vineyards; rich pasture-grounds covered with cattle; corn, flax, fruit-trees, and forests, occasionally bordered by naked rocks, the summits whereof are crowned with everlasting snow. This strong and striking contrast between the pastoral and the sublime, the cultivated and the wild, cannot but affect the mind of an observer with the most pleasing emotions.

As to the productions of the Vallais; they must evidently vary, according to the great diversity of climates, by
which

which this country is so peculiarly distinguished. It supplies more than sufficient wine and corn for interior consumption: and indeed a considerable quantity of both are yearly exported; the soil in the midland and lower districts being exceedingly rich and fertile. In the plain, where the heat is collected and confined between the mountains, the harvest is usually finished in July: whereas, in the more elevated parts, barley is the only grain that can be cultivated with any success; and the crop is seldom cut before November. About Sion, the fig, the melon, and all the other fruits of Italy, come to perfection: in consequence of this singular variety of climates, I tasted in the same day, strawberries, cherries, plums, pears, and grapes; each of them the *natural* growth of the country.

WITH respect to manufactures; there are none of any consequence; and indeed the general ignorance of the people is no less remarkable than their indolence; so that they may be considered, in regard to knowledge and improvements, as some centuries behind the Swiss, who are certainly a very enlightened nation. The peasants seldom endeavour to meliorate those lands where the soil is originally bad; nor to draw the most advantage from those which are uncommonly fertile: having few wants, and being satisfied with the spontaneous gifts of nature, they enjoy her blessings without much considering in what manner to improve them.

BEFORE I take leave of the Vallais, I shall communicate to you the result of my inquiries concerning the causes, which contribute to render goitrous persons and idiots so remarkably common in these parts: premising, at the same

time, that I must stand greatly in need of your candour, when you peruse the following considerations on a subject so extremely complicated; and on which so many different opinions have been advanced by naturalists and physicians.

FIRST, with respect to goiters. The notion that snow-water occasions these excrescences, seems totally void of foundation. For on that supposition, why are they common in the midland and lower parts, and extremely unfrequent in the higher regions of Switzerland; and particularly what reason can be assigned, why the natives of those places that lie most contiguous to the glaciers, and who drink no other water than what descends immediately from those immense reservoirs of ice and snow, are not subject to this malady? Why are the inhabitants of those countries in which there is no snow, afflicted with it? For, these guttural tumours are to be found in the environs of Naples, in the island of Sumatra, and at Patna and Purnea, in the East-Indies, where snow is unknown.

BUT as it would be needless to mention the various opinions on this subject, I shall at present confine myself to what, from repeated inquiries, from my own particular observations, and from positive facts, appears to be the *primary* cause of goiters. The springs that supply drink to the natives are impregnated with a calcareous matter, called in Switzerland *tuf**, nearly similar to the incrustations of Mat-

* The Porus of the older authors.

The Tophus glareoso, argillaceus Polymorphus, of Linnæus, 186. 1.

The Tophus Polymorphus of Wallerius, Syst. vol. ii. p. 394.

The Tophi of Kirwan, p. 25, called *Duckstein* by the Germans.

lock in Derbyshire, so minutely dissolved as not in the least to affect the transparency of the water. Will it be deemed improbable, that the impalpable particles of this substance, thus dissolved, should introduce themselves into the glands of the throat, and produce goiters? I ground this opinion on the following observations and facts.

To speak in general: during my travels through Europe, I never failed to observe that *tuf*, or this calcareous deposition, abounds in all those districts wherein goiters are common. I noticed goitrous persons and much *tuf* in Derbyshire, in various parts of the Vallais, in the Valteline, at Lucerne, Friburgh, and Berne, near Aigle and Bex, in several places of the Pays de Vaud, near Dresden, in the vallies of Savoy and Piedmont, near Turin and Milan.

To descend to particular instances. The inhabitants of Friburgh, Berne, and Lucerne, are much subject to guttural excrescences. With respect to Friburgh, I observed that one of the principal springs which supplies the town with water issues from a neighbouring stone-quarry, and has formed large depositions of *tuf* on the rock from which it bubbles. The pipes, also, which convey water to the public fountains at Berne, are extremely charged with the same calcareous sediment; and a gentleman, on whose veracity I can depend, assured me, that he is subject to a small swelling in the throat, which usually increases in winter, when he is chiefly resident at Berne, and diminishes in summer, on his removal to other places, where the waters are not loaded with *tuf*.

I WAS, moreover, informed by General Pfiffer, that at Lucerne all the waters, excepting one spring, are impregnated with *tuf*, and that the natives, who dwell near that spring, are much less subject to goiters than the other inhabitants; that the same difference is observed among the members of the same family, between those who drink no water but what is drawn from that spring, and the others who do not use that precaution. The General shewed me also the tin vessel, in which water was every morning boiled for his use, and which was so speedily and thickly incrustated as to render it necessary to have it cleansed twice a week. The water which yields this deposition, is as transparent as chrystal *. I may add likewise, that I visited many places which border upon those districts wherein goiters and *tuf* are frequent, and which have precisely the same situation and climate, yet whose inhabitants were not goitrous, and where I did not observe any appearance of *tuf*.

BUT the strongest proof, in favour of this opinion, is derived from the following facts. A surgeon, whom I met at the Baths of Leuk, informed me, that he had not unfrequently extracted concretions of *tuf-stone* from several goiters; and that from one in particular, which suppurated, he had taken several flat pieces, each about half an inch long. He added, that the same substance is found in the stomachs of cows, and in the goitrous tumors to which even the dogs

* Although it appears that wherever there are goiters there is *tuf-stone*; yet the reverse is by no means true, that wherever the waters deposit *tuf*, there are always goiters. For perhaps the natives do not drink of the springs which are loaded with *tuf*; or that substance is not sufficiently dissolved in the waters; absolute solution being, perhaps, necessary to produce these swellings.

of the country are subject. The same gentleman assured me, that in the course of an extensive practice, he had diminished and cured the goiters of many young persons by emollient liquors and external applications; that his principal method, in order to prevent them in future, consisted in removing the patients from the places where the springs are impregnated with *tuf*; and, if that could not be contrived, by forbidding the use of water which was not purified. He confirmed the report, that infants are occasionally born with guttural swellings; particularly those whose parents are goitrous; and remarked, that one of his own children had at its birth a goiter as large as an egg, although neither he nor his wife, who were both foreigners *, were afflicted with that malady. He had dissipated it by external remedies; and since that period, had invariably prohibited his family from tasting the spring waters, unless they were distilled, or mixed with wine or vinegar; by which means he was able to preserve them from those tumours in the throat, that were extremely common among the natives of the town which he inhabited.

ALTHOUGH it is by no means my intention to trouble you with the various opinions which have been advanced on this subject; yet it would be unjust to withhold from you that of M. de Sauffure, whose accurate researches and profound investigation on philosophical subjects, deserve to be weighed with the greatest attention. That able naturalist, in a recent

* In the former instance, goiters may, though perhaps erroneously, be esteemed hereditary; but in the latter, where the parents are both foreigners and not goitrous, can scarcely be derived from any other cause than the aliment of the mother.

publication *, attributes the production of goiters not to the waters, but principally to the concentrated heat of the climate, and stagnation of the air. He informs us, that in all his travels through the Alpine countries, he never observed goiters in any places, which are elevated more than 500 or 600 toises† above the level of the sea: he noticed them in those vallies where the heat is concentrated, and the air stagnates; and that they usually cease wherever the valley terminates, and the country expands into a large plain. With great deference, however, to his opinion, may I be permitted to observe, that the conclusion does not absolutely follow from these premises? For it may be remarked, that in places elevated more than 500 or 600 toises above the level of the sea, the springs are too near their sources, to have dissolved a sufficient quantity of calcareous matter, or so minutely as may be requisite for the generation of goiters; and that when the valley expands into a plain, the waters may deposit their sediment by mixing with the rivers and lakes, or by filtrating through the earth and gravel. But although the two causes mentioned by M. de Saussure do not produce, they may *assist* in producing guttural excrescences, by relaxing the fibres, and disposing the glands of the throat to admit more easily the introduction of the impalpable parts which are dissolved in the water. For it is observable, that women and children, whose frames are more relaxed than those of men, are most liable to be afflicted with these swellings; and that the natives of those districts most remarkable for the size and

* See Voyages dans les Alpes, ch. 48. vol. ii. p. 480.

† 3200 and 3840 English feet.

number of goiters, are extremely wan and livid, much subject to intermitting fevers, and other disorders which are judged to proceed from relaxation. In fine, although the concentrated heat, and stagnation of the air, may be allowed to affect the human body to a considerable degree; yet they do not of themselves seem sufficient for the effect in question, without the intervention of some more powerful agent: and this agent *seems* to be the water; if the facts already stated, prove consonant to truth and experience.

It may be necessary, however, to obviate an objection which maintains, that goiters must rather originate from climate and situation; because foreigners established in the country, are *never* afflicted with those tumours, while their children are no less subject to them than the natives. But is it an uncontrovertible fact, that *no* foreigner has ever been afflicted with this malady? The question, I should presume, can scarcely be replied to in the affirmative. And all that can be established, with any degree of certainty, is, that foreigners are *less* subject to these swellings than their children or the natives. In this respect the answer is evident. Persons who usually settle in foreign countries are adults; and adults are doubtless much less liable than children to an endemial malady, whose operation is gradual, and which requires much length of time, before its effects are in the least visible. And it is remarked, that, among the natives themselves, those persons, who have escaped this disorder during their infancy, are seldom attacked by it to any considerable degree at a more advanced age.

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IN reasoning upon this, as well as on similar subjects, where a cause is sought for, capable of producing a certain effect; it is necessary to establish a primary and general cause, which *always* and *necessarily* exists, wherever that effect is produced; and to exclude those circumstances, which do not *always* and *necessarily* exist, wherever that effect is produced. Thus, in the present instance: If snow-water occasions goiters, wherever there are goiters, there *must* be snow-water; which is contrary to fact and experience. If the concentrated heat of the climate, and stagnation of the air, are *necessary* to the formation of goiters, those excrescences could never be formed where these causes are wanting; which is not confirmed by fact and experience. If waters, impregnated with *tuf*, or with certain calcareous substances, produce goiters; wherever there are goiters, the natives must drink waters so impregnated; and this *seems* agreeable to fact and experience.

THE same causes, which generate goiters, *probably* operate in the case of idiots: for, wherever the goiters prevail to a considerable degree, idiots also invariably abound. As such is the nice and inexplicable connexion between our bodies and our minds, that the one almost invariably sympathises with the other; it is by no means an ill-grounded conjecture, that the same causes which affect the body should also affect the mind; or, in other words, that the same waters, which create obstructions and goiters, should also occasion mental imbecility and disarrangement.

ALTHOUGH

ALTHOUGH these idiots are frequently the children of goitrous parents, and have usually those swellings themselves; yet they are sometimes the offspring even of healthy parents, whose other children are properly organized, and are themselves free from guttural excrescences. I observed several children, scarcely ten years of age, who had very large goiters. These tumours, when they increase to a considerable magnitude, check respiration, and render those who are afflicted with them exceedingly indolent and languid. Some persons have, in opposition to the opinion which I have ventured to advance, supposed, that the small guttural swellings, which are common in many other parts, and the large excrescences, which are more particularly observed in the Vallais, in the Valley of Aost, and in some other places, do not proceed from the same cause, and are not the same disorder. But sufficient reasons have not been assigned for this opinion. During my expedition through the Vallais and other parts of Switzerland, I noticed some of all proportions, from the size of a walnut to almost the bigness of a peck loaf. As the same gradation may be also observed in the species of idiots; by a similar mode of argument, those who possess some faint dawnings of reason might be discriminated from others, who are totally deaf and dumb, and give no proof of existence but the mere animal sensations. Whereas it is probable, that in both instances, the greater or lesser disarrangement of the body or mind does not indicate a difference of complaint, but only greater or lesser degrees of the same complaint.

It is to be presumed, that a people accustomed to the sight of these excrescences, will not be shocked at their de-

formity; but I do not find, as some writers assert, that they consider them as beauties. To judge from the accounts of many travellers, it might be supposed, that the natives, without exception, were either idiots or goitrous: whereas, in fact, the Vallaisans, in general, are a robust race; and all that with truth can be affirmed, is, that goitrous persons, and idiots, are more abundant in some districts of the Vallais; than perhaps in any other part of the globe.

It has been asserted also, that the people very much respect these idiots, and even consider them *as blessings from Heaven*; which is strongly contradicted by others. Upon my questioning some gentlemen of this country, at the baths of Leuk, they treated the notion as absurd and false: but whether they delivered their real sentiments, or were unwilling to confirm what might lower their countrymen in the opinion of a stranger, will admit perhaps of some doubt. For having, since that time, repeatedly inquired among the lower ranks, I am convinced, that the common people esteem them as blessings. They call them "*Souls of God, without sin*:" and many parents, from superstition, prefer these idiot-children to those whose understandings are perfect; because, as they are incapable of intentional criminality, they consider them as certain of happiness in a future state. Nor is this opinion entirely without its good effect; as it disposes the parents to pay greater attention to such helpless beings. These idiots are suffered to marry, as well among themselves as with others.

I am, &c.

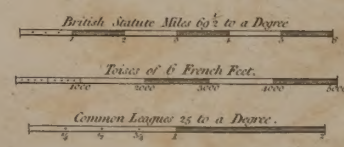
LETTER



MONT BLANC,
and
the Adjacent
ALPS.

Altitudes
of the principal places mentioned
in this Map above the Mediterranean
in French & English Measure

Mont Blanc	Twice Feet
Mont Blanc	2426-15526
Aiguille d'Argentiere	1902-12173
Mont Volan	1722-11021
Mont Buet	1379-10106
Granmont	1403-8079
Glacier of Taleire	1334-8538
Mont Brevin	1306-8358
Col de la Segne	1263-8083
Croix du Ben Homme	1255-8032
Convent of St Bernard	1251-8006
Col Ferret	1195-7648
Col de Balme	1181-7558
Montmort	954-6106
Cornayeur	625-4000
the Priory	524-3354



L E T T E R 36.

PASSAGE OF THE TETE NOIRE—COL DE BALME—
MONT BLANC—ITS GREAT ELEVATION.

Geneva, August 28.

UPON quitting Trient, we traversed some narrow valleys, through forests of pines, by the side of a small but impetuous torrent, which takes its rise from the glacier of the same name. The road, which is very rugged, is carried over the steep crags of a mountain called *La Tete Noire*. A little way from Trient we entered the duchy of Faucigny, subject to the king of Sardinia. Our road was very rough, till we arrived at the vale of Chamouny; the great mountains and glaciers of Savoy rising majestically before us.

ANOTHER way leads from Trient to Chamouny over the *Col de Balme*. I passed it on a mule the 7th of September 1785; it is exceedingly steep, but not dangerous, for I did not even find it necessary to dismount. The path, which is in no part bare rock, runs through a thick wood that clothes the sides of the mountain. We set off from Trient on this expedition about half past four, with the expectation of seeing the sun rise on the summit of Mont Blanc, but were disappointed; for we did not reach the Col de Balme in less than two hours, and day had already begun to break. We enjoyed, however, from the summit an extensive prospect, which many travellers consider as the most sublime view in all Switzerland: on one side it commands the Vallais, the

alps of St. Bernard, and the distant mountains of the cantons of Underwalden and Berne; the other comprehends Mont Blanc and the circumjacent heights. I observed the *Point de Mousson*; the *Mortine*, supporting on its top the glacier of *Buet*, on which M. de Luc made his celebrated experiments to ascertain the state of the atmosphere; the *Point de la Tour*; *Les Aiguilles d'Argentiere*; the *Aiguille de Midi*, a piked rock starting out of a large mass of snow; and, lastly, *Mont Blanc* itself. The highest point of this gigantic mountain is in the shape of a compressed hemisphere, and is called from its form *La Bosse du Dromedaire*; from that point it gradually sinks, presents a kind of concave surface of snow, in the midst of which is a small pyramid of ice; it then rises into a second hemisphere, called by some *Little Mont Blanc*, but with more propriety by others *Le Dome du Milieu*, or the *Middle Dome*; thence it descends into another concave surface terminating in a point, indiscriminately styled by the natives *Aiguille de Gouté*, *Point de Gouté*, and *Dome de Gouté*, and which I shall name the *Dome of Gouté*: from that dome it ends abruptly, and loses itself amid the mountains that bound the vale of Chamouny.

MONT BLANC is particularly distinguished from other mountains, by having its summit and sides clothed to a considerable depth with a mantle of snow, almost without the intervention of the least rock to break the glare of the *white* appearance; from whence its name is derived. This circumstance frequently deceives the eye unaccustomed to such objects, and in many situations renders it less lofty in appearance, than it is in reality. Although its summit was elevated
more

more than seven thousand feet above the spot where I stood, yet it did not impress me with that astonishment which might be expected from its superior height and magnitude above the circumjacent mountains. I was indeed more struck with the first view of the Schreckhorn from the top of the Scheidec, than of Mont Blanc from the Col de Balme. The summit of Mont Blanc being of a roundish form, and covered with snow, unites beauty with grandeur; whereas the Schreckhorn being piked, naked, and its shagged sides only streaked with snow, its grand characteristics are ruggedness and horror; and hence, indeed, it derives its name of Schreckhorn, or the *Peak of Terror**. But Mont Blanc soon re-assumed its real importance, seemed to increase in size and height, and solely attracted our attention, until we entered the vale of Chamouny.

You, who are totally unacquainted with alpine scenes, may, perhaps, conceive a faint idea of the elevation of this gigantic mountain, on being informed, that the mantle of snow, which appears to cover its top and sides, exceeds an altitude of four thousand feet perpendicular, and nine thousand feet in a horizontal direction from the *Dome of Gouté* to the summit; and that the height of the snow and ice, estimated from the source of the Arveron, at the bottom of the glacier of Montanvert, to the summit of Mont Blanc, cannot be less than twelve thousand perpendicular feet, or near three times as high as Snowdon, in North Wales.

* The traveller will recollect, that I am here describing Mont Blanc, as observed from the Col de Balme, and the vale of Chamouny. Those who have seen it from the valley of Aost assure me, that it is not on that side covered with a mantle of snow, but exceeds even the Schreckhorn in ruggedness and horror.

FIVE glaciers extend into this vale of Chamouny, and are separated from each other by forests, corn-fields, and meadows; so that large tracts of ice are blended with cultivation, and perpetually succeed each other in the most singular and striking vicissitude. These glaciers, which lie chiefly in the hollows of the mountains, and are some leagues in length, unite at the foot of *Mont Blanc*; the highest mountain in Europe, and probably of the antient world.

ACCORDING to the calculations of Mr. de Luc, (by whose improvement of the barometer, elevations are taken with a degree of accuracy before unattainable), the height of this mountain above the level of the sea is $2,391\frac{1}{3}$ French toises, or 15,304 English feet*; or, according to Sir George Schuckborough, of 15,662 feet; which gives a difference of only 358 feet. Mr. de Luc having found the altitude of the *Buet*, from thence took geometrically the elevation of *Mont Blanc*. The labours of this celebrated naturalist, and his rules for computing heights by the barometer, are to be found in his very valuable treatise, "*Sur les Modifications de l'Atmosphère.*" These rules are explained, and his tables reduced to English measure, by Dr. Maskelyne, R. A.; and still more fully by Dr. Horsley: both these treatises are published in the Philosophical Transactions for the year 1774.

* In reducing the French toise, which is equal to six French feet, to English measure, I have considered the proportion of the English to the French foot as 15 to 16. Its real proportion, according to the accurate calculation of Sir George Schuck-

borough, is $\frac{12}{12784}$, or 15 to 16 and a small fraction: but the error in my calculation being not one toise in a thousand, in order to prevent confusion, I have omitted the small fraction.

THE accuracy of the barometrical measurements made by Mr. de Luc, was verified by Sir George Schuckborough, in a number of ingenious experiments towards ascertaining the elevation of several mountains of Savoy, a short time before I arrived at Geneva. He followed Mr. de Luc's method; computed the heights of several mountains, reciprocally, by barometrical and geometrical observations; and perceived that the former coincided almost exactly with the latter. Having found the elevation of the summit of the *Mole* above the surface of the lake of Geneva, he took from thence the geometrical altitude of *Mont Blanc*. During the course of these experiments, he was enabled to correct some trifling errors that had crept into Mr. de Luc's calculations; to improve still further the discoveries of the latter; and has facilitated the means of taking elevations, by simplifying the tables and rules necessary for that purpose.

I AM convinced, from the situation of *Mont Blanc*, and from its superior altitude above the surrounding mountains, that it exceeds the loftiest point in Switzerland, which, beyond a doubt, is, next to *Mont Blanc*, the most elevated ground in Europe. That it is higher than any part of Asia and Africa, is an assertion which can only be proved by comparing the judicious calculations of modern travellers, with the exaggerated accounts of former writers; and by shewing, that there is probably no mountain in those two quarters of the globe, the altitude whereof, when accurately taken, surpasses 15,000 feet.

PERHAPS in no instance has the imagination of man been more given to amplification, than in ascertaining the heights

heights of the globe. Gruner, in his description of the Swiss glaciers, has mentioned the elevation of some remarkable mountains, agreeably to the calculations of several famous geographers and travellers, both antient and modern:

	Toises.	Eng. Feet.
According to Strabo, the highest mountain of the antient world was about —	3,411	21,830
According to Riccioli —	58,216	372,382
According to Father Kircher, who took the elevations of mountains by the uncertain method of measuring their shadows,		
Ætna is — — —	4,000	25,600
The Peak of Teneriff — — —	10,000	64,000
Mount Athos — — —	20,000	128,000
Lariffa in Egypt — — —	28,000	179,200

BUT these calculations are evidently so extravagant, that their exaggeration must strike the most common observer. If we consult more modern and rational accounts; it appears, that the Peak of Teneriff and Ætna have been frequently supposed to be the highest points of the globe. The former is estimated by some natural philosophers, to be 3,000 toises, or 19,200 feet above the level of the sea; but, according to Feuillé, this elevation is reduced to 2,070 toises, or 13,248 feet; whereas Ætna, by the accurate computations of Mr. de Saussure, rises only * 1,672 toises, or 10,700⁺ feet above the sea. Hence it will appear, that there are no mountains, except

* According to Sir George Schuckborough, 1,672 toises, or 10,954 feet: who says, "I have ventured to compute the height of this celebrated mountain from my own tables, though from an observation of Mr. de Saussure, in 1773, which that gentleman obligingly communicated to me. It will serve to shew that this volcano is by no means the highest mountain of the old world; and that Vesuvius, placed upon Mount Ætna, would not be equal to the height of Mont Blanc,

except those in America, the elevation whereof, according to Condamine, surpasses 3,000 toises, or 19,200 feet, which are equal to the altitude of Mont Blanc.

IN order, however, to determine with absolute certainty that Mont Blanc is the highest point of the whole world, it would be necessary to estimate, by the same mode of mensuration, Mont Blanc, the Schreckhorn, the Peak of Teneriff, the mountains of the Moon in Africa, the Taurus, and the Caucasus. The chain of the Caucasus has long been deemed the highest mountains of Asia; and some philosophers, upon considering the great superiority of the eastern rivers over the European, both in depth and breadth, have drawn a presumptive argument, that the Asiatic mountains are much more lofty than those of Europe. But conjectures are now banished from natural philosophy: and, until it shall be proved from undoubted calculations, that the highest part of the Caucasus rises more than 15,000 feet above the level of the sea, Mont Blanc may be fairly considered as more elevated.

“ Blanc, which I take to be the most elevated point of Europe, Asia, and Africa.”

I am happy to find my conjectures cor-

roborated by that ingenious and accurate observer.

		Feet.
Height of Ætna, according to Sir George	—	10,954
Of Vesuvius, according to Mr. de Saussure	—	3,900
Of both together	— — —	14,854
Height of Mont Blanc, according to Sir George		15,662
Difference,—or the height of Mont Blanc above that of Ætna and Vesuvius united	— —	808

For still further information on this curious subject, the reader is referred to Mr. Trembley's *Mesures des Hauteurs, in Saussure's Voyages dans les Alpes*, vol. ii. p. 616.

LETTER 37.

GLACIER OF BOSSON—MONTANVERT—EXPEDITION
ACROSS THE VALLEY OF ICE.

AUGUST 23d, we mounted by the side of the glacier of Bosson, to *les Murailles de glace*, so called from their resemblance to walls: they form large ranges of ice of prodigious thickness and solidity, rising abruptly from their base, and parallel to each other*. Some of these ranges appeared to us about a hundred and fifty feet high; but, if we may believe our guides, they are four hundred feet above their real base. Near them were pyramids and cones of ice of all forms and sizes, shooting to a very considerable height, in the most beautiful and fantastic shapes. From this glacier, which we crossed without much difficulty, we enjoyed a fine view of the vale of Chamouny.

THE 24th. We had proposed starting forth this morning very early, in order to visit the valley of ice, in the glacier of Montanvert, and to penetrate as far as the time would admit; but the weather proving cloudy, and likely to rain, we deferred our departure till nine. Having procured three guides, we ascended on horseback about three miles: we

* In 1785, these *murailles de glace* no longer existed.



J. Smith del.

J. Smith fecit.

Glacier of Bohemia

Published as the first of 194, by J. Smith, London.

were then obliged to dismount, and scrambled up a steep and rugged path, called "the road of the *crystal-bunters*." From the summit of the Montanvert we descended to the edge of the glacier; and made a refreshing meal upon some cold provision which we brought with us. A large block of granite, called "*La pierre des Anglois*," served us for a table; and near us was a hovel*, where those, who make expeditions towards Mont Blanc, frequently pass the night. The scene around us was magnificent and sublime; numberless rocks rising boldly above the clouds, some of whose tops were bare, others covered with snow. Many of these peaks gradually diminishing towards their summits, end in sharp points, and are called *Needles*. Between these rocks, the valley of ice stretches several leagues in length, and is nearly a mile broad; extending on one side towards Mont Blanc, and, on the other, towards the plain of Chamouny. The names of the principal needles are, Aiguilles de Midi, de Dru, de Bouchard, de Moine, de Tacul, de Charmeaux; and the five glaciers, that stretch towards the plain of Chamouny, and unite at the foot of Mont Blanc, are called Tacona, Boffons, Montanvert, Argentiere, and Tour.

AFTER we had sufficiently refreshed ourselves, we prepared for our adventure across the ice. We had each of us a long pole spiked with iron; and, in order to secure us as much as possible from slipping, the guides fastened to our shoes *crampons*, or small bars of iron, provided with four small spikes. The difficulty of crossing these valleys of ice,

* Since my first expedition, Mr. Blair, an English gentleman, has built a more commodious wooden hut, which, from him, is called Blair's Cabin.

arises from the immense chasms. We rolled down large stones into several of them; and the great length of time before they reached the bottom, gave us some conception of their depth: our guides assured us, that in some places they are not less than five hundred feet deep. I can no otherwise convey to you an image of this body of ice, broken into irregular ridges and deep chasms, than by comparing it to waves instantaneously frozen in the midst of a violent storm.

WE began our walk with great slowness and deliberation, but gradually gaining courage and confidence as we advanced, we soon found that we could safely pass along those places, where the ascent and descent were not very considerable, much faster even than when walking at the rate of our common pace: in other parts we leaped over the clefts, and slid down the steeper descents. In one place, where we descended and stepped across an opening upon a narrow ridge of ice scarcely three inches broad, we were obliged to tread with peculiar caution: for on each side were chasms of a great depth. We walked some paces sideways along this ridge; stepped across the chasm into a little hollow, which the guides contrived on purpose for our feet; and got up an ascent by means of small holes which we made with the spikes of our poles. This account appears terrible; but at the time we had not the least apprehensions of danger, as the guides were exceedingly careful, and took excellent precautions. One of our servants had the courage to follow us without *crampons*, and with no nails to his shoes; which was certainly dangerous, on account of the slipperiness of the leather when wetted.

WE

WE had now almost reached the opposite side, when being stopped by a broad chasm, we were obliged to make a circuit of above a quarter of a mile, in order to get round it. This will give you some idea of the difficulty attending excursions over some of these glaciers: and our guides informed us, that when they hunt the chamois and the marmots, these unavoidable circuits generally carry them six or seven miles, when the direct distance is only two miles, if they could proceed in a straight line. A storm threatening every moment, we were obliged to hasten off the glacier as fast as possible: for rain renders the ice exceedingly slippery; and in case of a fog, which generally accompanies a storm in these upper regions, our situation would have been extremely dangerous. And indeed we had no time to lose; for we had scarcely quitted the ice before the tempest began, and soon became very violent, attended with frequent flashes of lightning, and loud peals of thunder, which being re-echoed within the hollows of the mountains, added greatly to the awful sublimity of the scene. We crawled for a considerable way upon our hands and feet along a steep and bare rock, and down one of the most difficult and rugged precipices I ever descended in Switzerland; the thunder at the same time roaring over us, and rendering the rock extremely slippery. After much difficulty, but without the least accident, we gained the valley of Chamouny, and returned to the inn, as wet as if we had been plunged into water; but perfectly satisfied with our expedition.

POSTSCRIPT.

P O S T S C R I P T.

IN my second expedition to the valley of Chamouny, in 1785, instead of crossing the glacier, I ascended, in company with three Englishmen and a Swiss gentleman, from Blair's Cabin, about an hour and a half, over the bare and rugged rocks, to a summit under the *Aiguille des Charmox*, near the spot from which a Genevan unfortunately fell and was dashed to pieces. On this summit, at the very edge of the fearful precipice which overlooks the vale of Chamouny, stood a collection of stones, about three feet high, called by the natives *le bon homme*. We immediately raised this heap to the height of six feet, and piled up another of the same elevation, which we styled, in the language of the country, *le monument de quatre Anglois*, in memory of the four* Englishmen who amused themselves in forming it. I employed an hour in ascending part of the Montanvert on horseback; the same time in walking up to Blair's Cabin; an hour and a half to the *monument de quatre Anglois*; half an hour in descending to Blair's Cabin, and three quarters of an hour in passing from thence to Chamouny.

I MADE this expedition in company with M. Exchaquet, a Swiss gentleman, native of Aubonne, and director-general of the mines of Savoy. His repeated expeditions into these

* Mr. Whitbread, the two Mr. Cliffords, and myself. We were accompanied and assisted by M. Exchaquet, a Swiss gentleman, remarkable for his numerous expeditions into these alps.

regions have enabled him to execute a model in relief of the valley of Chamouny, Mont Blanc, the circumjacent alps, and glaciers. In order to render these models still more valuable to the naturalist, he collects specimens of the different species of stones which compose the mountains represented on the plan. M. Exchaquet is now employed by the government of Berne in constructing a model of the district of Aigle. M. Exchaquet has discovered a more commodious route, than that hitherto followed, to ascend the Buet and Mount Breven, which are described by M. van Berchem, secretary to the Society of Sciences at Lausanne, in his letter* to Mr. Wytttenbach of Berne, relating an expedition to the mines of Faucigny, and the glaciers which extend at the foot of Mont Blanc. In these letters the reader will find, beside much accurate and picturesque description, an account of several fossil and vegetable productions of the more elevated alps.

* *Excursion dans les Mines de Haut-Faucigny, &c. Lausanne, 1787.*

LETTER 38.

EXCURSION TOWARDS THE SUMMIT OF THE
COUVERCLE.

IN my subsequent expedition to the valley of Chamouny, I had proposed pushing my course still further towards the glacier of Talefre, but particularly to the Couvercle, of which I had read a very curious description in Mr. de Saussure's work. But having hurt my foot in ascending the Montanvert, I was prevented from executing my intended purpose. You will, however, have no reason to regret my disappointment, on receiving the following account of that expedition, extracted from notes communicated by a friend.

WE quitted the Priory at six in the morning, accompanied by Michael Paccard and Marie Coutet, two guides of Chamouny, traversed the plain, and ascended the Montanvert through a wood of pines. We had fine views of the glacier which gives rise to the Arveron, and of the vale of Chamouny, chequered in a most singular manner with alternate rows of arable and pasture land. After continuing about an hour, we quitted our mules, proceeded on foot, and in about an hour and a half reached Blair's Hut, on the top of the Montanvert, where we rested for a few minutes. We then descended to the glacier, coasted it by the path of the chrystal hunters, and in about half an hour came to some difficult passes called *Les Ponts*, or the Bridges, which run
over

over a perpendicular rock, at the edge of a frightful precipice. These passages, though still difficult, were extremely dangerous, until, by order of M. de Sauffure, the rock was in some parts blown away with gunpowder, and small holes formed for the hands and feet. The first bridge was about forty paces in length, and the two other passes somewhat less difficult, of about ten paces each. In about a quarter of an hour we arrived at a fountain which drops from the roof and sides of a natural grotto, the inside whereof is overgrown with large tufts of the *Ranunculus glacialis*. Having walked about eight miles since our departure from Chamouny, we sat down in this sequestered grotto, and made our first repast.

FROM hence we crossed some snow, the remains of a last winter's *Avalanche*, and immediately got upon the *Moraine*, the term given to the stones and earth which the glaciers disgorge on each side, after having received them from the superimpending mountains: they are very treacherous and difficult to walk upon. The ice upon which these stones rest is harder than that of the rest of the glacier; and the earth is laid in such regular and equable heaps, as to give the appearance of art. As we looked from hence over the valley of ice, a passage seemed impracticable; so numerous and broad were the chasms which intersected it in every direction, many bearing a tremendous appearance, and of an astonishing depth: but we soon found that it only required courage and activity. Instead of *crampons*, we had large nails in our shoes, which more effectually answered our purpose, and our spiked sticks were particularly serviceable.

Having descended upon the glacier, we found the ice softened by a warm wind, which rendered it less slippery than usual. We continued along it about a quarter of an hour, then regained and walked along the Moraine near half an hour. We now embarked upon the great valley of ice called *Glacier des Bois*, I own not without emotion to see ourselves upon this extraordinary desert, broken into frightful chasms, through the maze of which we were to pass. It was curious to observe the numerous little rills produced by the collection of drops occasioned by the thawing of the ice on the upper part of the glacier: these little rills hollow out small channels, and torrent-like precipitate themselves into the chasms with a violent noise; increasing the body of waters formed by the melting of the interior surface, and finding an outlet under the immense arch of ice in the valley of Chamouny, from which the Arveron rushes. This ice-water was agreeable to the palate, and extremely refreshing from its coolness.

THE field of ice, which at first sight seemed impervious to all but the chamois and marmot, and scarcely practicable even for the daring footsteps of man, is traversed by flocks of sheep, driven to the scanty pasturage which the opposite rocks afford. The shepherds leave them in these desolate spots, and visit them at different intervals. We traced their track over the ice, and saw a flock returning. One shepherd preceded as a guide, and another followed the herd. We had the good fortune to preserve one sheep which had strayed from the flock.

As

As we were continuing our course, we were surprized by a loud noise; and, looking round, perceived a large fragment of rock which had detached itself from one of the highest needles: it bounded from precipice to precipice with great rapidity, and, before it reached the bottom, was pounded almost entirely into dust. Having proceeded about an hour, we were astonished with a view far more magnificent than imagination can conceive: hitherto the glaciers had scarcely answered our expectations, but now they far surpassed them. Nature had clad herself in all her terrors. Before us was a valley of ice twenty miles in extent, bounded by a circular glacier of pure unbroken snow, called Tacu, which leads directly to the foot of Mont Blanc, and is surrounded by large conical rocks, terminating in sharp points like the towers of an ancient fortification; to the right rose a range of magnificent peaks, their intervals filled with glaciers; and far above the rest, the majestic summit of Mont Blanc, his highest point obscured with clouds. He appeared of such immense magnitude, that at his presence the circumjacent mountains, however gigantic, seemed to shrink before him, and “*bide their diminished heads* *.” In half an hour we arrived at the Moraine, which forms a boundary of the valley, crossed it, and proceeded upon a body of ice about three quarters of a mile broad. Here the ice was more even and free from chasms than in the great valley. We then passed a second Moraine, and beyond that another mass of ice to a third Moraine: descending from thence, we came upon the last ridge of ice, broader considerably than

* Milton.

the two former, and full of large chafins: it is separated from the rock only by a very narrow Moraine. These Moraines contain great quantities of chryſtal.

HERE we turned a little to the right, and aſcended the valley of ice, the ſcene every moment increaſing in magnificence and horror. In a ſhort time we arrived at the foot of the Couvercle, having walked about fix miles on the ice. We now found it difficult to quit the ice; and the firſt part of the deſcent was really perilous. One ſtep was truly dreadful: a bulging rock entirely ſmooth, and preſenting a precipice of very conſiderable depth, which was terminated by an immense chafm in the ice, ſeemed to forbid our progreſs; a ſmall hollow, however, in the middle ſerved for one foot, and from thence we bounded over to the firm ground. One guide went firſt, and held out his hand on the oppoſite ſide, whiſt the other helped and directed us where to place our feet. We continued aſcending a path which now ſeemed without danger, though very narrow and ſteep, and carried along the ridge of precipices. The ſcenery around was indeed ſo ſublime as to baniſh all ideas of fatigue and apprehenſion. Half an hour more brought us to the ſide of a fountain, where we ſat down to our dinner. We had now employed five hours and a half from Chamouny, and notwithstanding all difficulties and neceſſary halts, had walked fifteen miles, but none of us complained of fatigue.

THE clouds beginning to gather, warned us to haſten to the top of the Couvercle. From that ſtation we had the view of three ſtupendous vallies of ice, the glacier of Talefre
to

to the left, in front that of l'Echaut, and the Tacu to the right; all uniting in one great valley of ice called the *Glacier des Bois*, which stretched under our feet, and was surrounded and ornamented by the rugged needles. The dead silence, which reigned in this place, was only interrupted by the bounding of distant chamois, and the cries of alarm which the marmots gave to their tribes at our approach.

HAVING refreshed ourselves, we proceeded to the top of the Couvercle, a most extraordinary rock, having the appearance of a large irregular multilateral building placed on a mountain. The rock is granite, the ascent was laborious, but perfectly secure. Towards its foot we found a bottle containing the names of two Englishmen who had reached that place about a fortnight before, and probably flattered themselves that no stranger would go beyond them. We wrote our names on the reverse of the paper, and carried the bottle with us to the summit of the Couvercle. Three quarters of an hour brought us to the point, and we reached a rock overhanging a precipice which my eyes dared not measure. In this situation we were surprized with a thunder-storm, which added great horror and magnificence to the scene. We took shelter under an impending rock, and listened to the roaring of the storm with a mixed sensation of fear and pleasure. On reflecting in this place that we were to measure back the same ground, and to undergo a repetition of the same difficulties, we were not exempted from alarm: but recollecting, that it is the duty of man to encounter some dangers, in order to behold such glorious scenes, we from that moment banished all apprehensions.

OUR view from the top of the Couvercle comprehended the same sublime scenes we had enjoyed from its base, but considerably heightened and enlarged; and the stupendous extent of ice appeared like a rugged expanse of frozen sea, bounded by the most gigantic rocks, and terminated by Mont Blanc, the Atlas of the globe. Although we were thus entirely enclosed between ice and snow, and barren crags, where all vegetation might be supposed to cease; yet our eyes reposed on a triangular rock, clothed with grass and alpine plants, and starting up like a fertile island in the midst of a desolate ocean. It is known by the name of the *Garden*, and exhibits a curious contrast to the surrounding dreariness. During our expeditions into the Alps, we had frequently found occasion to remark the peculiarly deep shade of the blue colour in the “*pure Empyreal* *;” and to-day we were more particularly affected with this circumstance. It conveyed a most sublime idea of the infinity of space: the higher we ascended, the more beautiful it seemed; and we were informed by a person accustomed to alpine scenes, that on considerable elevations he had frequently observed the stars at noon-day.

OUR descent from these icy regions was no less fortunate than our ascent; we reached the Priory at seven in the afternoon, without the least accident, and wrapt in astonishment on the recollection of scenes, which surpass the imagination, as much as they defy description.

I am, &c.

* Milton.

LETTER 39.

VARIOUS ATTEMPTS TO REACH THE SUMMIT OF
MONT BLANC—SUCCESSFUL EXPEDITION OF
JAMES BALMA AND DR. PACCARD—OF MON-
SIEUR DE SAUSSURE—HIS PHYSICAL OBSER-
VATIONS.

VARIOUS attempts having been made to reach the summit of Mont Blanc, as well by the guides of Chamouny, as by Messieurs de Sauffure and Bourrit; a chronological account of the principal expeditions, which have at length terminated successfully, will not, perhaps, be uninteresting.

THE first enterprize was formed by Mr. Couteran and three guides of Chamouny, Michael Paccard, Victor Tiffay, and Marie Coutet. On the thirteenth of July 1776, these adventurers set off from the Priory about eleven in the evening. They passed between the glaciers of Boffon and Tacona; and after having employed above fourteen hours in mounting rugged and dangerous ascents, in crossing several vallies of ice, and large plains of snow, they found themselves upon the top next to Mont Blanc. At first sight, that mountain appeared scarcely a league distant; but they soon discovered that the clearness of the air, the extraordinary whiteness of the snow, and its great height, made it seem nearer than it was in reality: and they perceived with regret,

gret, that it would require at least four hours more to reach the summit, even supposing it practicable. But as the day was far advanced, and the vapours towards the summit of Mont Blanc began to gather into clouds, they were obliged to relinquish their enterprize. As they were returning in great haste, one of the party slipped in attempting to leap over a chasm of ice. He held in his hand a long pole, spiked with iron, which he had struck into the ice; and upon this he hung dreadfully suspended for a few moments, until he was released by his companions. The danger he had just escaped, made such an impression upon him, that he fainted away, and continued for some time in that situation; he was at length brought to himself, and, though considerably bruised, sufficiently recovered to be able to continue his journey. They arrived at Chamouny about eight that evening, after having employed two-and-twenty hours: as some sort of recompence for so much fatigue, they enjoyed the satisfaction, at least, of having approached nearer to Mont Blanc than any former adventurers.

ACCORDING to Sir George Schuckborough, the summit to which they arrived is more than 13,000 feet above the Mediterranean. These persons, however, did not take the necessary precautions for so perilous an enterprize: for the expedition was not only extremely hazardous, but was also far too fatiguing and difficult to be accomplished within twenty-four hours. They ought to have set out in the morning, and to have found some proper place in which they might pass the night, they would then have been sufficiently refreshed the next morning to pursue their expedition; and
would

would not have found themselves, after advancing within four hours of Mont Blanc, unable to proceed, and in danger of being overtaken by darkness in so dreary a situation. The failure of this expedition seemed for some time to repress all future attempts to attain the top of Mont Blanc, until the indefatigable Mr. Bourrit infused a new spirit into the inhabitants of Chamouny. After reiterated though unsuccessful attempts, on the 11th of September 1784, Mr. Bourrit, accompanied by six guides, departed from Bionasay; and was *scaling*, as he expresses himself, the *rampart* of Mont Blanc, when he suddenly found himself so extremely affected by the intense cold, that he was unable to proceed.

MARIE COUTET and Francis Guidet, two of the guides who attended him in this expedition, had preceded their company, and ascended to the Dome of Goutè, which is about 9,400 feet in a strait horizontal direction from the summit. Marie Coutet informed me, that they passed the Middle Dome, and walked along the ridge between that dome and the summit as far as some high rocks, which appear from the vale of Chamouny like small points rising out of the snow; but night approaching, obliged them to return. On the 4th of September 1785, Marie Coutet and James Lambat reached a place under a rock at a considerable elevation, where they passed the night. Setting off before sun-rise, found themselves about seven on the Dome of Goutè; and were proceeding towards the summit, with a fair prospect of success, when a violent storm of hail ensued, accompanied with such a strong wind, as compelled them to return.

ON the 13th of September, Messieurs de Sauffure and Bourrit, attended by twelve guides well provided with barometers, thermometers, and other instruments, for the purpose of making the necessary observations, departed from Bionafay, and arrived at a hut, which they had ordered to be constructed at *Pierre Ronde* 7,808 feet above the level of the sea. Here they passed the night, and early the next morning reached the Dome of Goutè without the least accident, and without much difficulty; where they were stopped by a fresh fall of snow, into which they sunk so deep, that all farther progress was impracticable. Mr. de Sauffure informs us, that the mercury in the barometer sunk eighteen inches and a half, and that he reached an elevation of 1,290 toises, or 8,256 English feet.

At length, in July 1786, six guides of Chamouny having failed in another attempt, James Balma, one of the party, being overtaken by darkness, as he was rambling upon the ice, missed his way, and passed the night in a spot above the Dome of Goutè, elevated more than 12,000 feet above the level of the sea. His youth, and the strength of his constitution, having preserved him from the effects of the nocturnal cold in so severe an atmosphere, at the approach of morn he reconnoitered the situation, and observed a part which appeared to him more easy of access than any of the others that had been hitherto attempted. On his arrival at Chamouny he was seized with a very severe indisposition, the effect of extreme fatigue, and of the intense cold. Being attended by Doctor Paccard, a physician of the place, James Balma communicated his observations; and, in gratitude for
his

his attendance, offered to conduct him to the summit of Mont Blanc.

ON the 7th of August, these two daring adventurers sallied from Chamouny upon this memorable expedition, and reached before dark the mountain of *La Cote*, which overhangs the upper part of the glacier of Boffon. Here they passed the night; and at three in the morning pursued their route over the ice, ascended the Dome of Goutè, passed under the Middle Dome, and at the last pyramid of rock turned to the east, and continued along the ridge, which is seen from Geneva, and lies on the left of the summit. Here they first began to experience such intense cold, and such extreme fatigue, that Dr. Paccard was almost induced to relinquish the enterprize: being, however, encouraged by James Balma, more accustomed to such fatiguing and dangerous expeditions, he followed his companion. The wind was so violent and piercing, that in order to avoid its blowing in their faces, they were obliged to walk sideways for a considerable time. About six in the afternoon, they at length attained the summit of Mont Blanc; and stood triumphantly on a spot of ground, which no one had reached before, and at the elevation of 15,662 feet above the sea, which is undoubtedly the highest point in the antient globe. They remained on the summit no more than half an hour, the cold being so intense, that the provision was frozen in their pockets, the ink congealed in their inkhorns; and the mercury in Fahrenheit's thermometer sunk to $18\frac{1}{2}$ degrees. Doctor Paccard had just time to observe the state of the barometer, which he has not communicated to the public.

THEY had employed fifteen hours in ascending; and though they again reached the mountain of La Cote in five hours, yet they found great difficulty in descending, their sight being debilitated by the reflection from the snow. They arrived at La Cote about midnight, after twenty hours unremitted fatigue. Having reposd themselves two hours, they again sallied forth, and returned to Chamouny at eight in the morning. Their faces were excoriated, and their lips exceedingly swelled; Dr. Paccard was almost blind, and his eyes continued to be affected for a considerable time. We cannot expect any accurate experiments from these two persons, to whom the glory of having first ascended the summit of Mont Blanc is undoubtedly due. But they prepared the way for the observations and discoveries of future naturalists, and particularly of M. de Sauffure, whose indefatigable zeal did not permit him to rest, until he had reached the top of Mont Blanc, and made those experiments which cannot fail greatly to elucidate the theory of the atmosphere.

THAT able naturalist set out on this successful expedition, from the valley of Chamouny, on the 13th of August 1787. He was accompanied by eighteen guides, who carried a tent, matraffes, all necessary accommodations, and instruments of experimental philosophy. They passed the first night on the top of the mountain of La Cote, in a hut previously constructed for that purpose. At four o'clock in the following afternoon they reached an elevation of 9,312 feet above the Priory, or 12,762 above the level of the sea. Here they encamped, and formed an excavation in the congealed snow, which

which they covered with a tent. In this icy habitation, instead of suffering from the cold, M. de Sauffure felt such a suffocating heat, from the closeness of the tent, and the number of persons crowded in so small a compass, that he was frequently obliged to go into the open air in order to breathe.

THE next morning the whole company departed at seven; and found the ascent in some places so steep, that the guides who preceded were obliged to hew out steps with a hatchet. At eleven they reached the summit of Mont Blanc. Here they continued three hours and a half, during which time M. de Sauffure enjoyed, with rapture and astonishment, a view the most extensive as well as the most rugged and sublime in nature; and made those observations which will render this expedition no longer a matter of mere curiosity. Until a complete and ample detail of those observations shall be communicated to the public, you will perhaps not be displeased with the following particulars selected from a temporary publication of M. de Sauffure himself*.

HE did not find the cold so extremely piercing as was experienced by Dr. Paccard and James Balma. By comparing his experiments on Mont Blanc with those made at the same time by M. Senebier at Geneva, he was enabled to make the following observations. Reaumur's thermometer stood in the shade at $2\frac{3}{5}$ below freezing point, or 27 of

* A translation of this account, by the Rev. Mr. Martyn, professor of botany in the university of Cambridge, printed by Kearsley, forms an Appendix to his Sketch of a Tour through Switzerland, which I would recommend to the traveller.

Fahrenheit,

Fahrenheit; at Geneva at 22. 6, or 82 of Fahrenheit, which gives a difference of near 25 degrees of Reaumur, or 45 of Fahrenheit, between the state of the atmosphere at both places. De Luc's barometer fell to $16.0\frac{1}{2}\frac{4}{8}$, and as it stood at Geneva at $27.2\frac{1}{2}\frac{8}{8}$, it gives a difference of 11. 2, without regarding the fraction. On estimating the height of Mont Blanc from barometrical experiments, he found it almost exactly correspond with that given by Sir George Schuckborough, or 15,662 English feet above the level of the sea, and which reflects the highest honour on the accuracy of the English observer.

By experiments with the hygrometer, the air on the top of Mont Blanc contained six times less humidity than that of Geneva; and to this extreme dryness of the atmosphere, he imputes the burning thirst which he and his companions experienced. It requires half an hour to boil water on the top of Mont Blanc, fifteen or sixteen minutes are sufficient at Geneva, and fourteen or fifteen by the sea-side. By experiments on the electrometer, the balls diverged only three lines; the electricity was positive. On the summit he noticed two butterflies on the wing; observed, at the elevation of 11,392 feet above the sea, the *Silene Acaulis*, or moss campion, in flower; and still higher up, on the most elevated rocks, the *Lichen Sulphureus* and *Lichen Rupestris* of Hoffman. He adds, that the summits of Mont Blanc and the adjacent mountains are composed of granite; and that, next to Mont Blanc, the Schreckhorn and Mount Rosa in Piedmont, appeared the most elevated points. M. de Sauffure, as well as many of his party, found themselves extremely
affected

affected by the rarefaction of the air; and at two began returning. They descended a little lower than the place in which they passed the preceding night, arrived the next morning at the valley of Chamouny without the least accident, and, as they had taken the precaution to cover their faces with crape, their skins were not excoriated, nor their sight debilitated.

ON the eighth of August, a few days after M. de Sauffure's expedition, Mr. Beaufoy, an English gentleman, succeeded in a similar attempt, though it was attended with greater difficulty, arising from the enlargement of the chasms in the ice. An account of this expedition was read before the Royal Society on the 13th of December 1787, and will probably be communicated to the public.

LETTER 40.

CONJECTURES ON THE FORMATION AND STATE OF
THE GLACIERS.

NO subject in natural history is more curious than the origin of these glaciers, extending into fields of corn and pasture, and lying, without being melted, in a situation, where the sun is sufficient to bring vegetation to maturity: for it is almost literally true, that with one hand I could touch ice, and the other ripe corn. As in my first expedition to the alps my stay was exceedingly short, I declined entering upon a subject too important to be superficially treated, and only threw together a few hasty remarks, which occurred to me on the spot. But I find that these remarks, however hasty and superficial, served to excite your curiosity; and have induced you to inquire, "*Which is the most rational system concerning the formation of the glaciers? Are they in a state of augmentation or diminution; or do they remain within the same limits?*" Although in my subsequent journeys to the alps I made this subject a particular object of research; and although I have attentively perused the principal systems, which have been laid down concerning the formation of glaciers; yet it is not without great diffidence, that I can presume to reply to your very arduous questions.

THE theory of Gruner, confirmed and amended by that able naturalist M. de Sauffure, appears the most simple and rational; and I do not know how I can better satisfy your curiosity, than by forming an extract from his much esteemed

esteemed work *, interspersing it with a few additional remarks drawn from my own particular observations.

IF a person could be conveyed to such an elevation as to embrace at one view the alps of Switzerland, Savoy, and Dauphiné, he would behold a vast chain of mountains, intersected by numerous vallies, and composed of many parallel chains, the highest occupying the center, and the others gradually diminishing in proportion to their distance from that center. The most elevated, or central chain, would appear bristled with pointed rocks, and covered, even in summer, with ice and snow, in all parts that are not absolutely perpendicular. On each side of this chain he would discover deep vallies clothed with verdure, peopled with numerous villages, and watered by many rivers. In considering these objects with greater attention, he would remark, that the central chain is composed of elevated peaks and diverging ridges, whose summits are overspread with snow; that the declivities of the peaks and ridges, excepting those parts that are extremely steep, are covered with snow and ice; and that the intermediate depths and spaces between them are filled with immense fields of ice, terminating in those cultivated vallies which border the great chain. The branches most contiguous to the central chain would present the same phenomena, only in a lesser degree. At greater distances no ice would be observed, and scarcely any snow, but upon some of the most elevated summits; and the mountains diminishing in height and ruggedness, would appear covered with herbage, and gradually sink into hills and plains.

* Voyages des Alps, v. i. c. 7.

IN this general survey, the glaciers may be divided into two sorts; the first occupying the deep vallies situated in the bosom of the alps, and termed by the natives *Vallées de Glace*, but which I shall distinguish by the name of *Lower Glaciers*; the second, which clothe the summits and sides of the mountains, I shall call *Upper Glaciers*.

I. THE Lower Glaciers are by far the most considerable in extent and depth. Some stretch several leagues in length; that of des Bois in particular is more than fifteen miles long, and above three in its greatest breadth. The Lower Glaciers do not, as is generally imagined, communicate with each other; and but few of them are parallel to the central chain: they mostly stretch in a transverse direction, are bordered at the higher extremity by inaccessible rocks, and on the other extend into the cultivated vallies. The thickness of the ice varies in different parts. M. de Saussure found its general depth in the glacier des Bois from eighty to a hundred feet; but questions not the information of those who assert, that in some places its thickness exceeds even six hundred feet.

THESE immense fields of ice usually rest on an inclined plain: being pushed forwards by the pressure of their own weight, and but weakly supported by the rugged rocks beneath, are intersected by large transverse chasms; and present the appearance of walls, pyramids, and various fantastic shapes, observed at all heights and in all situations, wherever the declivity exceeds thirty or forty degrees. But in those parts, where the plain on which they rest is horizontal, or only gently inclined, the surface of the ice is nearly uniform;

form; the chasms are but few and narrow, and the traveller crosses on foot, without much difficulty.

THE surface of the ice is not so slippery as that of frozen ponds or rivers: it is rough and granulated, and is only dangerous to the passenger in steep descents. It is not transparent, is extremely porous and full of small bubbles, which seldom exceed the size of a pea, and consequently is not so compact as common ice: its perfect resemblance to the congelation of snow impregnated with water, in its opacity, roughness, and in the number and smallness of the air-bubbles, led M. de Sauffure to conceive the following simple and natural theory on the formation of the glaciers. An immense quantity of snow is continually accumulating in the elevated vallies which are enclosed within the alps, as well from that which falls from the clouds during nine months in the year, as from the masses which are incessantly rolling from the steep sides of the circumjacent mountains. Part of this snow, which is not dissolved during summer, impregnated with rain and snow-water, is frozen during winter, and forms that opaque and porous ice of which the Lower Glaciers are composed.

2. THE Upper Glaciers may be subdivided into those which cover the summit, and those which extend along the sides of the alps.

THOSE which cover the summits of the alps, owe their origin to the snow that falls at all seasons of the year, and which remains nearly in its original state, being congealed into a hard substance, and not converted into ice. For al-

though, according to the opinion of some philosophers, the summit of Mont Blanc, and of other elevated mountains, is, from the glistening of the surface, supposed to be covered with pure ice; yet it appears, both from theory and experience, that it is not ice but snow. For, in so elevated and cold a region, there cannot be melted a quantity of snow sufficient to impregnate with water the whole mass, which remains undissolved. Experience also justifies this reasoning. M. de Saussure found the top of Mont Blanc only encrusted with ice, which, though of a firm consistence, was yet penetrable with a stick; and on the declivities of the summit he discovered, beneath the surface, a soft snow without coherence.

THE substance which clothes the sides of the alps is neither pure snow like that of the summits, nor ice which forms the Lower Glaciers, but is an assemblage of both. It contains less snow than the summits, because the summer heat has more power to dissolve it, and because the liquefied snow descending from above, the mass is penetrated with a larger quantity of water. It contains more snow than the Lower Glaciers, because the dissolution of the snow is comparatively lesser. Hence the ice is even more porous, opaque, and less compact than the ice of the Lower Glaciers; and is of so doubtful a texture as renders it, in many parts, difficult to decide, whether it may be called ice or frozen snow. In a word, there is a regular gradation from the snow on the summits to the ice of the Lower Glaciers, formed by the intermediate mixture of snow and ice, which becomes more compact and less porous in proportion as it approaches the Lower Glaciers, until it unites and assimilates with them. And it is evident, that the greater or lesser degree of density is

is derived from the greater or lesser quantity of water, with which the mass is impregnated.

IN regard to your second question, "*Whether the glaciers are in a state of increase or diminution,*" though I declined on a former occasion to enter minutely upon a subject, which required much accurate observation and repeated experimental investigation; yet I ventured to make one remark, which seemed to prove the occasional increase and diminution of the glaciers; contrary to the opinion of some philosophers, who maintain, that they continue always the same, and of others, who assert, that they are constantly increasing.

THE borders of the glacier of Montanvert, are mostly skirted with trees: towards its base a vast arch of ice rises near a hundred feet in height; under which the Arveron rushes with considerable force, and in a large body of water. As we approached the ice, we passed through a wood of firs: those trees which stand at a little distance from the arch are about eighty feet high, and are undoubtedly of a very great age. Between these and the glacier, the trees are of a later growth; as is evident from their texture and inferior size. Others, still smaller, have been overturned and enveloped in the ice: there seems to be a kind of regular gradation in the age of these several trees, from the largest which are standing to the smallest that lie prostrate. These facts justly lead to the following conclusions:—that the glacier once extended as far as the row of tall firs; that, upon its gradual dissolution, a number of trees shot up in the very spots which it formerly occupied; that, since that period, the ice has again advanced; and has overturned the trees of later growth,

growth, before they had attained considerable height. To these circumstances, the following fact may be added. Large stones of granite are usually found at a small distance from the extremities of the glacier. These stones have certainly fallen from the mountains upon the ice, have been carried on in its progress, and have tumbled into the plain upon the dissolution or sinking of the ice which supported them. These stones, called by the inhabitants *Moraine*, form a kind of border towards the foot of the valley of ice, and have been pushed forward by the glacier in its advances: they extend even to the place occupied by the larger pines.

As several writers upon Switzerland have, in contradiction to these facts, endeavoured to prove, that the snow and ice are continually accumulating in the alps, I shall here throw together a few additional remarks, that may tend to confirm the contrary opinion.

THE Inferior Glacier of Grindelwald was so considerably diminished since my first expedition in 1776, that the spot which its extremity then occupied was, in 1785, removed at least four hundred paces from its former site. In the valley of Chamouny, the *Murailles de Glace*, which I described as forming the border of the glacier of Boffon, no longer existed; and young trees had shot up in the parts which were then covered by the glacier of Montanvert.

THE advocates for the increase of the glaciers, admitting these facts, yet deny that any judgment can be formed concerning the state of the more elevated regions, from what passes in the vallies, where the sun has power to bring the
fruits

fruits of the earth to maturity. They assert that it appears, both from theory and fact, that more snow falls, and more ice is annually formed in the alps than can be annually dissolved. To judge from theory; they argue, that the cold occasioned by the mass of ice already formed ought to augment it still further; and in regard to experience, it is evident, that within the memory of the present generation, many mountains have been covered, many pastures and habitations invaded, and many passages irrecoverably obstructed by the ice.

IN considering the arguments drawn from theory, we may observe, that the causes which tend to the diminution of the ice, are no less powerful than the augmentation of the cold, which is supposed to occasion its indefinite increase. These causes are principally; 1. rain and fleet in the less elevated regions; 2. evaporation; 3. descent of the snow and ice, both precipitous and gradual; 4. heat of the atmosphere; 5. mean temperature of the earth.

1. THE rain and fleet, which fall during summer upon the Lower Glaciers, not only thaw the ice, but increase those rills that collect on the surface, excavate channels, descend into the clefts, and assist in forming them. 2. Evaporation is a still more powerful cause; as it acts at all heights, and in all seasons. 3. The descent of the snow and ice, as distinguished by precipitous and gradual. The precipitous, or continual fallings of congealed snow, termed by the natives *avalanches*, are detached either by their own weight, softened from their hold by the heat of the sun or the warm air which blows from the south, or overthrown by the violent hurricanes that are extremely common in the upper alps.

When

When these masses are precipitated into a milder region, though they may sometimes indeed resist the influence of heat, and form valleys of ice, yet they are more usually dissolved. These *avalanches* are most common in the Upper Glaciers; whereas the gradual descent of the ice is chiefly confined to the Lower Glaciers, and is a very powerful agent in lessening the aggregate mass.

ALL the Lower Glaciers, or vallies of ice, rest on an inclined plain, are arched or hollow, and are undermined and weakened by the torrents, which are constantly flowing, as well from the Upper Glaciers, as from their own interior surface. The natural tendency of a heavy body in such a position is to descend; and its progressive motion is accelerated in proportion to its own weight, and the greater inclination of its basis. This progressive motion, which acts, though imperceptibly, yet gradually and uniformly, carries the ice into those cultivated plains and vallies, where the sun ripens the fruits of the field; and where a period is necessarily put to its farther increase. If you require a proof of this imperceptible descent, the answer is obvious. It is to be collected from the facts which I have already enumerated; namely, from the trees which are occasionally overturned by the ice in its progress, and by the moraine of stones which is observed at the bottom of the Lower Glaciers. These stones being similar to the mountains of the upper alps, and essentially different from the rocks below, must have been conveyed by the ice in its descent from the Upper Glaciers.

4. THE heat of the atmosphere, or the effect of the sun's rays on the outward surface of the glaciers, is too evident to require

require any proof, even to those who have never been in the Alps. Another cause of a thaw, derived from the heat of the atmosphere, which will not be suspected by those who have not visited these icy regions, is the warm winds which blow by night as well as by day in the Upper no less than in the Lower Glaciers. These warm winds are, during summer, so common in these parts, that I never crossed a glacier without feeling, in some particular positions, a warmth similar to the air of a hot-bath.

5. BUT as these two causes only operate in summer; and as the sun's rays do not produce sufficient effect in the highest parts, we must have recourse to the mean temperature of the earth, which seems to be the greatest and most powerful agent in preventing an indefinite augmentation of ice and snow. This mean temperature, termed by some philosophers the internal* heat of the earth, is always above the freezing point, as is evident from the heat of the springs which issue from the bowels of the earth. In winter, therefore, or in those high regions of the globe where the cold is usually below the freezing point, when any spot of ground is covered with only a thin coat of snow, it may be so far cooled, to a certain depth, by the influence of the external air, as not to be capable of dissolving any part of the superincumbent snow. But when the mass of snow is of such a thick-

* Some philosophers impute this constant thaw, which takes place in the lower surface of the glaciers, to an internal source of heat in the earth; but that opinion has been very ably refuted by several modern natu-

ralists; the mean temperature of the ground being found sufficient to account for *all* the phenomena, local circumstances excepted, which have been usually assigned to an internal heat of the earth.

ness as to protect the surface of the ground from the effects of the atmospherical cold, the mean temperature, which is always above the freezing point, will be sufficient to melt the contiguous surface of snow, and to occasion a constant thaw, which supplies those currents of water, that flow, at all seasons, from the Upper and Lower Glaciers.

IN regard to the argument derived from experience, it is sufficient to observe, that while I admit the facts which prove the progress of the ice, it by no means seems to follow that its sum is perpetually increasing. For the advocates who support this opinion, while they scrupulously enumerate the places which have been invaded by the ice, do not take any notice of those parts, no less numerous, from which the ice has receded. During my second expedition into the Alps, I also made this point of controversy a particular object of my researches; and on inquiring from the *chasseurs*, and other persons who frequent the mountains, the greatest part were of opinion that the collection of ice and snow, even in the elevated regions, was by no means in a continual state of augmentation; but that while it gained in some places it diminished in others; and that upon an average, the aggregate quantity was nearly the same.



The Bouquet.

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LETTER 41.

ACCOUNT OF THE BOUQUETIN, OR MOUNTAIN-
GOAT.

I OBSERVED at Michael Paccard's, a guide of Chamouny, a head and horns of the male *bouquetin*, or mountain-goat, and stuffed specimens of a female and a young one. As this animal is extremely rare, and inhabits the highest and almost inaccessible mountains, the descriptions of it have been very inaccurate and confused. But a new light has been lately thrown on the subject by Dr. Girtanner of St. Gallen, and by M. van Berchem, secretary to the Society of Sciences at Lausanne; and although these two naturalists differ in some instances, yet their joint labours have assisted in ascertaining the nature and œconomy of this curious animal. The following account, therefore, of the bouquetin, is drawn principally from their observations in Rozier's Journal, and from additional information obligingly communicated to me by M. van Berchem.

THE elder naturalists speak of the bouquetin as of an animal well known, and in their time by no means uncommon

on the high alps of Switzerland, especially in the canton of Glarus and in the country of the Grifons. On the town-hall at Glarus, there is still a pair of horns of an extraordinary length, belonging to an animal of this species, formerly killed in the canton. These horns are probably the same which Ray saw in the last century, when the natives informed him, that the breed was extinct in that canton.

THAT this animal was found among the Grifons, appears from a letter in the possession of M. de Salis Seervis, dated the 14th of October, 1574, in which the Archduke Ferdinand of Austria requires from his bailif of Castels, in the Pretigau, two bouquetins alive; adding, that he had received several from his predecessors. About forty years after the date of this letter the animal began to be rare; for a decree in the year 1612 prohibits the chase of the bouquetin under a fine of fifty crowns, and that of the chamois from New-year's day to St. John, under the penalty of ten crowns. Sprecher, in his *Pallas Rhetica*, published in 1617, relates, that the chase of the bouquetin was not uncommon in his time, in the valleys of Pregalia, Vals, and Upper Engadina. Another law of 1633, confirmed in the following year, inflicts corporal punishment on those who kill a bouquetin. But these severities could not preserve the breed; and it is probable that this was the epoch of their destruction, when the fear of their being extinct prompted government to forbid the chase.

chace *. And it is certain, that within the memory of the present generation, no bouquetins have been found in a wild state in the country of the Grisons.

THIS animal is now chiefly found upon that chain which stretches from Dauphiné through Savoy to the confines of Italy, and principally on the alps bordering on Mont Blanc, which is the most elevated part of that chain. Its particular haunts are the valley of Cormayor to the south of Mont Blanc, those heights which lie between Mont Blanc and the frontiers of the Vallais, and the mountains which border the Val Savarenche; but it is met with more abundantly in the mountains of the valley of Cogne, which is the frontier of the valley of Dent in Piedmont; and almost always frequents those parts that have a southern aspect.

THE several names by which the bouquetin is known in different languages, are, in Greek, by Homer and Ælian, *Αἰξ ἀγρία* †; Latin, *Ibex*, which name has been adopted by most modern naturalists; Italian, *Capra Selvatica*; German and

* Franciscus Niger, in his description of the Grisons, as quoted by Conrad Gesner, says, that they spare this animal in hunting, because it is the armorial bearing of the country.

“ *Parcitur hic Capricorne tamen tibi, Panos amice,*
 “ *Arma quod exornes, et pulchra insignia gentis,*
 “ *Hinc longam hinc vitam vivens, ingentia jactas*
 “ *Cornua, perque plicas rugosa, repandaque in armos,*
 “ *Formosusque nigris villis in montibus erras.*”

† Most naturalists affirm that Homer calls this animal *Αἰξ ἱέραξ*, whereas he styles it *Αἰξ ἀγρία*, or the wild-goat, adding the epithet *ἱέραξ*, or wanton. *Iliad* Δ, v. 105.

Swift

Swiss, *Steinbock*, or Rock-goat, the female, *Etagne*, or *Ybschen* and *Ybschgeiss*, perhaps from the Latin *Ibex*; Flemish, *Wildgheit*; French, *Bouquetin*, antiently *Bouc-estain*, the German name reversed. Belon named it *Hircus ferus*; Brisson, *Hircus Ibex*; Linnæus, *Capra Ibex*; Pennant, the *Ibex*; and Dr. Girtanner, *Capra Alpina*. I have adopted the name of Bouquetin, because it is the provincial appellation of the animal in the Alps. The systematic naturalists agree in taking the specific character of the bouquetin from the beard, and the horns, which they describe as knobbed along the upper or anterior surface, and reclining towards the back.

THE male bouquetin is larger than the tame goat, but resembles it much in the outer form. The head is small in proportion to the body, with the muzzle thick, compressed, and a little arched. The eyes are large, round, and have much fire and brilliancy. The horns large, when of a full size weighing sometimes 16 or 18 pounds, flattened before and rounded behind, with one or two longitudinal, and many transverse ridges; which degenerate towards the tip into knobs; the colour dusky brown. The beard long, tawny, or dusky. The legs slender, with the hoofs short, hollow on the inside, and on the outside terminated by a salient border, like those of the chamois. The body short, thick, and strong. The tail short, naked underneath, the rest covered with long hairs, white at the base and sides, black above and at the end. Space under the tail in some tawny, in others white. The coat long, but not pendent, ash coloured, mixed with some hoary hairs: a black list runs along the back; and there

there is a black spot above and below the knees. Its colour, however, like that of other animals, must necessarily vary according to its age and local circumstances.

THE female has been little noticed among naturalists. She is one-third less than the male, and not so corpulent: her colour is less tawny: her horns are very small and not above eight inches long. In these, and in her figure, she resembles a goat that has been castrated whilst young. She has two teats, like the tame she-goat, and never has any beard, unless, perhaps, in an advanced age. The young ones are of a dirty grey colour, and the list along the back is scarcely discernible.

THERE is a stuffed specimen of the male bouquetin of the alps in Mr. Parkinson's, late Sir Ashton Lever's, Museum, of which I have here given some of the principal dimensions, as they are not to be found in any author that has fallen under my observation, except in Buffon's *Historie Naturelle*; and those were taken by Mr. Daubenton from a young subject.

		Feet.	Inches.
Length of the head from the lower jaw			
to the space between the horns	—	0	9½
Length from the root of the horns to			
the base or origin of the tail	—	4	4
Height at the shoulder before	—	2	5½
Height at the shoulder behind	—	2	7½
Circumference of the body next to the			
fore legs	— — —	3	6
Circumference next the hind legs	—	3	2
		Circumference	

				Feet.	Inches.
Circumference in the middle	—			3	8
Circumference of the neck, close to the					
shoulders	—	—	—	2	3½
— between the					
ears and the horns	—	—		1	4

THE horns being so remarkable a part of this animal, I shall add the measurement, not only of those belonging to Mr. Parkinson, but of several pairs which are deposited in the British Museum,

DIMENSIONS of the horns in Mr. Parkinson's, late Sir Ashton Lever's, Museum (n. 1.) and in the British Museum.

	N° 1.		N° 2.		N° 3.		N° 4.		N° 5.	
	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.
Rectilinear direction or chord, from the root to the tip —	2	1½	1	9	2	0	1	8	1	6
Arc, or length measured along the curvature — —	2	8	2	6½	3	6	3	0	3	9
Circumference at the base —	0	9½	0	8	0	10½	0	9	0	9
Distance between them at the base — — —	0	0½	0	1	—	—	—	—	0	0½
Distance between them at the tips — — —	1	9¾	2	2						
Number of transverse ridges —	24		12		20		24			

THOSE in the second and third columns certainly belong to the bouquetin of the alps. Their colour is a dusky brown. The first of these is very flat before; the second is not so flat; neither the longitudinal nor transverse ridges are so very strongly marked: these are evidently the horns
of

of a very old animal. The horns in the fourth column belong also to the bouquetin; but probably from some other country. Their colour is black; they are much flatter on the sides, and narrower before than the others; the longitudinal ridge is very strongly marked, and the transverse ridges stronger and more numerous. I cannot observe more than one * longitudinal ridge in any of the horns which I have examined, the exterior part of the front being universally rounded off, and the transverse ridges run very little into the sides. The horns in the fifth column belong unquestionably to the *Ægagrus* of Pallas, which is not improbably a variety of the bouquetin. Two fine pairs of these horns were given to the Museum by the late duke of Northumberland. They have no anterior flat face, but a sharp ridge, with a few knobs in front, about nine in number, and very distant from each other; they are streaked transversely, more evidently towards the end. Their extremities are much arched, with the points turning inwards. The colour is the same with those of the alpine bouquetins.

It is a common notion of the hunters, adopted by many naturalists, that the age of a bouquetin may be estimated by the number of transverse ridges or knobs in the horns. M. van Berchem, however, assures me, from his own observations, that this is a vulgar error; and that its age can only be ascertained by the number and form of the teeth, as in

* Most naturalists affirm, that the horns are marked with *two* longitudinal ridges; all those that have fallen under my observation have only *one* interior longitudinal ridge, and a faint mark on the exterior edge, which is probably taken for the *second* longitudinal ridge.

sheep and goats. This mistake has also occasioned its term of life to be supposed much longer than it really is. This animal increases in bulk to the age of four years; according, therefore, to the system of the Count de Buffon, that the age is about seven times the growth, its life is twenty-eight or thirty years.

IN a state of tranquillity, the bouquetin commonly carries the head low; but in running holds it high, and even bends it a little forward. He mounts a perpendicular rock of fifteen feet at three leaps, or rather three successive bounds of five feet each. It does not seem as if he found any footing on the rock, appearing to touch it merely to be repelled, like an elastic substance striking against a hard body. He is not supposed to take more than three successive leaps in this manner. If he is between two rocks which are near each other, and wants to reach the top, he leaps from the side of one rock to the other alternately, till he has attained the summit. He also traverses the glaciers with rapidity; but only when pursued, for otherwise he avoids them.

THE bouquetins feed, during the night, in the highest woods: but the sun no sooner begins to gild the summits, than they quit the woody region, and mount, feeding in their progress, till they have reached the most considerable heights. They betake themselves to the sides of the mountains which face the east or south, and lie down in the highest places and hottest exposures: but when the sun has finished more than three-quarters of its course, they again begin to feed,

feed, and to descend towards the woods; whither they retire when it is likely to snow, and where they always pass the winter. The bouquetins assemble in flocks, consisting at the most of ten, twelve, or fifteen; but more usually in smaller numbers. The males which are six years old and upwards, haunt more elevated places than the females and younger bouquetins; and as they advance in age are less fond of society; they become gradually hardened against the effects of extreme cold, and frequently live entirely alone.

IN summer they feed principally on the *genipi* and other aromatic plants which grow in the high alps; and in winter they eat the lichens, and browse on bushes and the tender shoots of trees. They prefer those spots where the dwarf birch and alpine willows grow, and where *rhododendron*, *thalictrum*, and *saxifrages*, abound. The bouquetins having their fore legs somewhat shorter than the hind legs, naturally ascend with greater facility than they descend; for this reason nothing but the severest weather can engage them to come down into the lower regions; and even in winter, if there are a few fine days, they leave the woods and mount higher.

WINTER is the season of love with them, and principally the month of January. The females go with young five months, and consequently produce in the last week of June, or the first of July. At the time of parturition they separate from the males, retire to the side of some rill, and generally bring forth only one young, though some naturalists affirm that they occasionally produce two. The common cry of

the bouquetin is a short sharp whistle, not unlike that of the chamois, but of less continuance: sometimes it makes a snort, and when young bleats.

THE season for hunting the bouquetin is towards the end of summer, and in autumn, during the months of August and September, when they are usually in good condition. None but the inhabitants of the mountains engage in the chase; for it requires not only a head that can bear to look down from the greatest heights without terror, address and sure-footedness in the most difficult and dangerous passes, and to be an excellent marksman, but also much strength and vigour to support hunger, cold, and prodigious fatigue. The most determined hunters of bouquetins live in the mountains of the Lower Vallais; for instance, the natives of Servan, a village in a wild and picturesque situation, four leagues from Valorine, and two or three from Martigny, are hunters, and the bouquetins being no longer found in their mountains, they hunt in those of the valley of Aost, obtaining a permission for that purpose from the inhabitants.

Two or three hunters usually associate in this perilous occupation: they are armed with rifle-barrelled guns, and furnished with small bags of provisions; they pass the night among rocks at considerable heights; they erect a miserable hut of turf, where they lie without fire or covering, and on waking not unfrequently find the entrance blocked up with snow three or four feet in depth. Sometimes, in the pursuit of a bouquetin, being overtaken by darkness amid crags and precipices,

precipices, they are obliged to pass the whole night standing embraced, in order to support each other, and to prevent themselves from sleeping. As the bouquetins ascend into the higher regions very early in the morning, it is necessary to gain the heights before them, otherwise they scent the hunter and betake themselves to flight: it would then be in vain to follow them, for when once they begin to escape, they never stop till they think themselves entirely out of danger, and will even sometimes run for ten or twelve leagues.

THE female shows much attachment to her young, and even defends it against eagles, wolves, and other enemies: she takes refuge in some cavern, and presenting her head at the entrance of the hole, thus opposes the enemy. When a bouquetin is shot, the hunters let it cool upon the spot, and then embowel it, putting the blood into one of the entrails, which is esteemed by the peasants a sovereign remedy in pluries and some other disorders. A large bouquetin thus embowelled will weigh 180 or 200 pounds. A female weighs only from 70 to 80 pounds.

SOME naturalists are of opinion, that the diminution of the race of bouquetins in the Alps is owing to his size, the monstrous length and weight of the horns, which impede him in his course; because he is driven into places where he can scarcely procure sufficient nourishment during great part of the year, where his sight becomes debilitated, and is frequently lost by the strong reflection of the sun from the ice and snow. They consider this animal rather as a native of the subalpine regions, which are covered during summer with

with the finest herbage, and where the bouquetins and chamois probably pastured in tranquillity, when only the lower vallies and plains were inhabited.

ON the contrary, it is maintained by others, that the bouquetin is endued with strength proportionate to his size; and though he is inferior to the chamois in liveliness and agility, yet he is by no means deficient in activity; that his horns, though large and weighty, yet from their reclined position do not seem to be any impediment, but rather render him essential service when he happens to fall, or purposely throws himself down precipices to avoid his pursuers. They add also, that his natural food is rather lichens than herbs; that he is particularly fond of the young shoots of trees and shrubs; and that in all the places where he inhabits, he is found in the coldest and rudest mountains, and on the steepest rocks. From these circumstances, it is not improbable, that his present situation and manner of life is an effect of nature rather than necessity. Besides, why do the chamois, who are more hunted than the bouquetin, still inhabit the less elevated regions; and why are they not driven among the glaciers? To account for the present scarcity of the bouquetin, we need only consider the number of its enemies, in men, beasts, and birds of prey. Nor is there much cause for apprehensions, that the race will be extinct even in the Alps. But allowing that the bouquetin was no longer found in his native Alps, still we could not affirm with so much propriety that the race was extinct, as that it had migrated into a milder climate, and, with a state of domestication and more succulent food, had acquired softer manners,

manners, a form less rude, smaller and smoother horns. For it is even not improbable, that the *bircus ferus* or bouc-estain of Belon, the bouquetin of the Alps, the Siberian ibex, and ægagrus, both so accurately described by Pallas*, and the tame goat in all its different forms, are only varieties of the same species. Their difference in shape and manners may be sufficiently accounted for from a change of climate, situation, and food; they are found to couple freely with each other; and are asserted to produce an offspring which is fertile.

THEY all have a beard, which seems to be the great characteristic distinction of this genus. They differ more or less from each other in the shape of their horns, size, and coat, none of which can be esteemed certain specific distinctions. The greatest difference undoubtedly consists in the horns, none of them, perhaps, except the bouquetin, having a longitudinal ridge, and some of them being even without the transverse ridges. But this difference is less perceptible, in comparing the bouquetin with the Siberian ibex, the ibex with the ægagrus, and the ægagrus with the tame goat. Nor are the horns of the Alpine bouquetin so much weightier, longer, and larger, than those of the Siberian ibex and ægagrus, as to form a *certain* specific distinction †.

BUT

* Perhaps also the *capra caucasica*, described by Pallas, from the papers of Guldenstaedt, and which he represents as differing from the ægagrus, with which it has been confounded by some naturalists. See Aët. Petr. for 1779,

† The horns of the bouquetin, as has been before observed, are sometimes found to weigh sixteen or eighteen pounds, to be three feet in length, and to have twenty-four transverse ridges. A single horn of a Siberian ibex weighed, according to Pallas, eight

BUT even were this difference still greater, it could never be admitted as forming a specific distinction. For the horns not only vary in individuals of the same species, but in the same individuals at different ages. If we were to attempt to arrange animals *solely* by their horns, the discriminations would be as endless as uncertain. But if, in the present instance, the alpine bouquetin and the other species of the goat genus should be excepted from this general assertion, we have only to add, that M. van Berchem possesses the horns of a young one, produced from the union of the bouquetin and she-goat, that are exactly similar to the horns of the ægagrus, which, as Pallas asserts, resemble those of the tame goat. Climate and nutriment must have a great effect upon the horns of animals. The female of the bouquetin has horns very like those of the tame goat. It is no wonder, therefore, if a long servitude, an inactive life, an exchange from the aromatic plants and pure air of the mountains to a gross nutriment and a moister atmosphere, should diminish the horns, alter their shape, subdue the longitudinal ridge, and convert the knobs into wrinkles.

eight Russian pounds, which is one-tenth less than an English pound, and had sixteen or eighteen transverse ridges. The horns of another full grown Siberian ibex measured 2 feet 5 inches and 5 lines, along the curvature, and 1 foot 2 inches and 1 line, in a rectilinear direction. The horns of an ægagrus measured 2 feet 2 inches and 9 lines along the curvature, and 1 foot 4 inches in a linear direction. The horns of a full grown Cau-

casan goat, were 2 feet 4 inches along the curvature, and 1 foot 6 inches in the linear direction. The longitudinal ridge or ridges remain then as the *only* specific difference between the horns of the alpine bouquetin and those of the other species. See the measurements in Pallas Spic. Zool. and in his Description of the Capra Caucasica, in Act. Petr. for 1779.

THE Count de Buffon extends the goat genus still further, and comprehends under it even the chamois; conjecturing, that the bouquetin is the male in the original race of goats, and the chamois the female. The French naturalist having, at the time when he described the bouquetin, never seen it in a full grown state, was probably induced to entertain this opinion from a faint resemblance between the female bouquetin and the chamois. But there does not seem the least foundation for this notion, the chamois being an animal totally distinct from the goats, never coupling with them, and judiciously classed by Pallas and Pennant in the genus of antelopes. His conjecture, however, that the bouquetin is the original source of all the tame goats seems to be well founded; and has been adopted by the greatest part of succeeding naturalists. And as, according to the just observations of Pallas, the *ægagrus* approaches nearer than the bouquetin to the tame goat in its form and horns, the *ægagrus* may be the link which unites the bouquetin and the tame goat. May not the *ægagrus* be considered as a race produced from the bouquetin and the she-goat, or the goat and female bouquetin? Pallas also conjectures, that the tame goat may possibly have been propagated from the *ægagrus* and Siberian ibex, which is allowed by most naturalists to be the same as the bouquetin; and Pennant remarks, with no less sagacity, that the tame goats may be derived from both, as we are assured that the ibex and she-goat will produce a similar offspring. It is also probable, that the bouquetin is the origin of all the goat genus, because it is the largest, strongest, and dwells in the most inhospitable regions. For, according to the observation of the same great

zoologist *, whom we have so often quoted, those animals who are natives of the coldest mountains must, on descending into the warm plains, be liable to greater changes than those who are formed for milder climates; and this circumstance seems sufficient to account for the great variety observable in the goat genus.

SOME naturalists pretend, that the bouquetin cannot be the original stock from whence the goats have been produced, because, as he inhabits only the loftiest summits and rocks covered with eternal snow, and feeds only on plants peculiar to high regions, he cannot be domesticated in a variety of climates. But this opinion is contradicted by fact and experience. Stumpf, the historian of Switzerland, informs us, that the Val-laisans near Sion bred up tame bouquetins with their goats; and Belon relates, that the Cretans tamed the young bouc-estains by giving them to be suckled by the goats. Dr. Pallas also relates, that he has frequently seen the Siberian ibex among the tame goats, and mentions one in particular at Orenburgh, which was leader of a flock, and father of a numerous offspring more resembling the females than himself. He was very different from the tame he-goats, scarcely inferior in size to a bouquetin two years old: in colour and strength he resembled the wild animal; had thick horns, knobbed, not keeled above, and a long rough coat, but the hair no where pendent, except in the beard: the black list on the back was almost obliterated. And lastly, Mr. van Berchem saw several tame bouquetins at Aigle. They were

* Pallas.

gentle and familiar; and, without being remarkably lively, were active and graceful in all their motions. They bred with different she-goats, and Mr. van Berchem saw the young ones, which seemed to form a new race.

If these observations should be well founded, the goat genus, or race of the bouquetin, is found in a wild state along the chain of mountains that traverses the temperate parts both of Europe and Asia; on the Alps, Pyrenees, and Carpathian mountains; on the Taurus and Caucasus; on the mountains of Siberia and Tartary; in Kamtchatka; on the islands of the Archipelago; in Hedsjæas in Arabia; in India; perhaps in Ægypt and Lybia*.

* A chronological list of the authors who have mentioned, described, or figured the bouquetin and ægagrus, is here subjoined.

- 1548. J. Rudolph. Stumpf. Gemeine Eidgenossenschaft Beschreibung. Zurich, folio. A good account, translated into Latin, inserted in Gesner's work, and transcribed by many succeeding naturalists.
- 1551. Conradi Gesneri Historia Quadrupedum. Tiguri, folio. At page 331, &c. is an ample account, from the antients, Stumpf, and others, with a small figure. At page 1099, however, it is tolerably well figured.
- 1554. Belon Observations. French edition, p. 20. A good description of the animal in Crete, with a moderate figure.—Latin edition, by Clusius, 1605, p. 20. The figure small and very indifferent.
- 1617. Sprecher Pallas Rhetica.
- 1621. Ulyssis Aldrovandi Quadrupedum Bifulcorum Historia. p. 730. fig. 732. Bad.
- 1657. Joan. Jonston, M. D. Historia Naturalis de Quadrupedibus. Amstel. folio. Page 53. t. 25. f. 1. and t. 28. f. 3, the latter from Gesner.
- 1674. Olearii Gatterfische Kunst Kammer. Tab. 10. fig. 1. Head and horns.
- 1677. Charletoni Exercitationes. Oxon. folio. Pag. 10.

1680. Joh. Jac. Wagner, M. D. *Historia Naturalis Helvetiæ curiosa*. Tiguri. 12mo. At p. 176. a short account.
1693. Jo. Raii *Synopsis Quadrupedum*. Lond. 8vo. At p. 77. a short description.
1734. *Représentation des Animaux de la Ménagerie de S. A. S. Monseigneur le Prince Eugène*. Figures of two males, the female and two young ones, in the last plate. They are called Chamois, but are bouquetins.
1740. Ridinger *Abbildung der Jagtbaren Thiere*, tab. 11.
1748. Linnæi *Systema Naturæ*, Holm. 8vo.
1751. Klein *Historia Quadrupedum*, p. 16. Description from Gesner.
1756. Guil. Henr. Kramer *Elenchus Vegetabilium et Animalium per Austriam Inferiorem observatorem*. Viennæ, &c. 8vo. p. 321.
Briffon *Regnum Animale*, 4to. p. 64—8vo. 1762. p. 39.
1764. Buffon *Histoire Naturelle*, 4to. vol. xii. p. 136. tab. 13. a bad figure of a young one; tab. 14. a good pair of horns.
1766. Caroli a Linné *Systema Naturæ*, edit. 12. Holm. 8vo. p. 95.
1771. Pennant's *Synopsis of Quadrupeds*, 8vo. p. 13.
1776. P. S. Pallas *Spicilegia Zoologica*. Fascic. undecimus Berol. 4to. p. 31. t. 3.—and t. 5. f. 4. contains descriptions of the ibex and ægagrus, and gives figures of the horns of the Alpine and Siberian bouquetin, and of the ægagrus.
1777. Erxleben *Systema Regni Animalis*. Lipsiæ. 8vo. p. 261.
1777. Zimmerman's *Specimen Zoologiæ Geographiæ Quadrupedum*. Lugduni Bat. 4to. p. 166.
This curious and learned work, improved and enlarged, was published in 1780, by the author in the German tongue, under the following title:
Zimmerman's *Geographische Geschichte*, &c. 3 vols. 8vo. Leipfic. 1780.
1781. Pennant's *History of Quadrupeds*. Article Ibex and Caucasian Goat.
1786. Rozier *Observations sur la Physique, sur l'Histoire Naturelle*, &c. Par. quarto. tome 28, 29. Girtanner, Van Berchem, & Guldenstädt.
1787. Pennant's *Arctic Zoology*.

LETTER 42.

JOURNEY TO GENEVA—PAYS DE VAUD—LAUSANNE—FELIX THE FIFTH—VEVAY—TOMB AND CHARACTER OF GENERAL LUDLOW—CLARENS—MEILLERIE.

HAVING quitted the delightful vale of Chamouny and its magnificent scenery, we continued our route towards Geneva. As we proceeded, the height of the mountains gradually diminished; and the several vallies, through which we passed, were agreeably diversified in their figures and productions. We followed the course of the sonorous and violent Arve; and near Salenche we came to a descent, where on our right hand we descried a small lake, the situation whereof is extremely picturesque; and whose borders, skirted with wood, are pleasing and diversified. From hence we descended into the plain, which continues almost perfectly level to Geneva. Salenche lies at the bottom of a broad valley, which here contracts to a narrow pass. Tradition says, that this little plain was once a lake; and indeed its form, and the quality of the soil, seem to justify tradition: great part is laid waste by the unruly Arve, which frequently overflows its banks; and the rest is mostly covered with fruit-trees.

NOT far from Magland we stopped to admire a beautiful fall of water, called the cascade of Arpenas, which rushes,
like

like the Staubbach, from an impending rock. When I saw it, there was a considerable wind, which drove the torrent, soon after its leaving the rock, at least an hundred yards out of the perpendicular direction, into an almost imperceptible spray : I then beheld it trickling down the side of the mountains in a thousand little streams, which united at a ridge ; and from thence formed three cascades. The body of water was much more considerable * than that of the Staubbach ; and the fall appeared to me altogether as high. Between Magland and Cluse we took a guide to conduct us to the cave of *la Balme*. Though the ascent was not very long, yet it was so steep that we were nearly an hour in reaching it ; we then scrambled along a precipice, from which we mounted a ladder ; and by the aid of the branches of a nut-tree growing from the rock, we pulled ourselves into a natural cavern more than a quarter of a mile in length, and forming various branches that led into lofty vaults and spacious openings ; but the sight of which did not answer the trouble required to enter it.

WE passed the night at Cluse, which is situated by the side of the Arve ; and the next morning came down the banks of that river to Bonneville, the capital of Faucigny : it stands also upon the Arve, at the bottom of a chain of rocks, which from this place diminish into hills. All this part of Faucigny, as also a small strip of Chablais through which we passed, is a rich plain, that produces wine and corn in

* It may be necessary to apprise the traveller, that, in dry summers, this cascade is sometimes almost destitute of water, lest, seeing it under that circumstance, he should conceive the description in the text to be too much exaggerated.

great plenty; but is neither populous nor well cultivated. By the little village of Chene we entered into the territory of Geneva: the sudden change from the poverty of the Savoyards to the neatness and ease of the Genevans, the populousness of the country, the richness of its cultivation, and the number of country-seats scattered about the fields, were circumstances that affected me with a pleasing satisfaction. As I propose visiting Geneva again, in my way to the south of France, I will defer giving any account of that interesting town until my return.

WE went from Geneva to Craffi, a small village in the Pays de Vaud, where we passed a day with an English gentleman, who has taken a house for the summer in that delightful spot. In our way to Craffi we passed through Versoi, a little village in the French territories, upon the lake of Geneva, known by the name of *Choiseul's Folly*. Geneva having fallen under the displeasure of France; that minister endeavouring to take advantage of the troubles in 1768, laid a plan to ruin the town, and to monopolise the whole trade of the lake. Accordingly he fixed upon Versoi as a situation the most proper, upon which to build a large town. For this purpose, he began by sinking a pier and making an harbour: he constructed also a frigate; marked out the streets; sent a considerable quantity of stone to build the houses; ordered a garrison, and erected huts for them, in which they continued some time. Nevertheless, when the harbour was nearly finished, and government had expended about £. 125,000, the scheme was relinquished.

THE

THE road from Geneva to Lausanne runs through the *Pays de Vaud*, a region of which historians and travellers speak with rapture; particularly of that part which borders upon the lake of Geneva: and indeed a more delightful country cannot well be imagined. It is, almost the whole way, a gradual ascent from the edge of the lake, richly laid out in vineyards, corn-fields, and luxuriant meadows; and checquered with continued hamlets, villages, and towns: the shores are generally of the cleanest gravel; and the water is of so fine a transparency, that you may see the bottom to a very considerable depth. We passed through Nyon, which stands delightfully upon the edge of the lake, and in the very point where it begins to widen. It was formerly called *Colonia Equestris Noiodunum*; and as a proof of its antiquity, several Roman inscriptions, and other antient remains, have been frequently discovered in the out-skirts of the town. In this part the lake forms a beautiful curve, happily alluded to by Lucan, where he mentions the army of Julius Cæsar striking their tents, which were posted on the borders.

Deseruere CAVO tentoria fixa Lemano *.

ALL the possessions in this country formerly belonging to the duke of Savoy, were wrested from him in the war, which the canton of Berne declared against him, in 1536, in defence of Geneva: and in the same year the reformation was introduced. From that period all the *Pays de Vaud*, excepting

* “ They strike their tents and quit the hollow bend

“ Of Leman’s lake.”

the common bailliages of Granfon, Orbe, and a small portion of it which was ceded to Friburgh, has been subject to Berne, and makes part of that canton.

MORGES, which is situated at the extremity of a beautiful bay, is the neatest town in these parts. The environs are extremely pleasant; the banks of the lake form an amphitheatre gently rising to the Jura; and Mont Blanc presents itself through an immense opening in the opposite chain of rocks, which seems to have been formed by nature in order to exhibit a sublime perspective of that beautiful mountain. Near the town is a lime-tree of a great size, being twenty-four feet four inches in circumference, and with branches of magnificent extent; it has a companion about three feet less in girth. Mr. Pennant informs me, that “this tree is a native of Switzerland, and of many other parts of the continent; that it was imported into England before the year 1562; one being described by Dr. William Turner as growing in a park near Colchester; that one thirty-six feet in circumference grew near the great church at Berne; it was planted about the year 1410; and its hollow trunk, still putting forth leaves, was to be seen in the year 1702 *. The Germans, in old times, were fond of planting the lime before their churches and in the market-places, on

* A large lime is to be seen on the heights above Villars, a feat belonging to Mr. Graffenred of Berne, near Morat. Its girth measures at least thirty-six feet in circumference, and its height is not less than ninety feet. It is very antient, as it was lopped in 1550, for the sake of the bark.

The traveller who visits this tree, will be no less gratified with an extensive prospect, commanding the lakes of Morat, Neuchatel, and Bienne, and that stupendous chain of snowy alps which is represented on the engraving inserted in this volume.

account of its grateful shade. This tree is now grown much out of use; yet the Romans esteemed it so highly, as to say that it was employed for a thousand purposes, *tiliæ ad mille usus petendæ*. A sweet juice exudes from the leaves and bark, from which the Poles extract a honey called by them Liepiz *. Bees are also fond of the flowers; for that reason Virgil, in his beautiful description of the industrious Corycian, places the lime and the pine in the neighbourhood of his hives."

LAUSANNE contains about seven thousand inhabitants: it is built upon an ascent so steep, that in some places the horses cannot, without great difficulty, draw up a carriage; and foot-passengers ascend to the upper part of the town by steps. But these inconveniences are amply compensated by the sublimest views in nature, commanding the lake of Geneva, the Pays de Vaud, and the rugged coast of Chablais.

THE same year in which part of the Pays de Vaud was conquered from the house of Savoy, the bishop of Laufanne, retiring from the town, the inhabitants put themselves under the protection and sovereignty of the canton of Berne; which confirmed and augmented their privileges. At present, Laufanne is governed by its own magistrates; has its own courts of justice; and, what is very singular, the citizens, who possess houses in the principal street, enjoy the privilege of pronouncing sentence in criminal causes.

* ————— cogere pressis
Mella favis; illi tiliæ, atque uberrima pinus.

The criminal is tried by the civil power : if he is found, and acknowledges himself guilty, the burghers of this street assemble ; one of the magistrates pleads in defence of the prisoner, and another against him ; the court of justice give their opinion upon the point of law ; and the majority of the citizens, possessing houses in the principal street, determine the penalty. If the punishment is capital, there is, according to the letter of the law, no pardon, unless obtained within twenty-four hours from the sovereign council of Berne ; although it generally happens, that eight days are granted for that purpose. When the criminal is seized within the jurisdiction of the town ; the fact is tried, and the burghers pronounce sentence, in the town-hall : in this case there is no appeal. But, when he is taken within the district of the bailif, they assemble in his house ; and an appeal lies from their determination to Berne. I have been the more particular in my inquiries concerning the mode of this criminal process, from the strong resemblance it bears, in some respects, to our trial by juries. Here is an academy for the students of this country : professors in every science are appointed by government ; and there is a tolerable library for the use of the public.

I HAVE several times had the good fortune to meet Tiffot, the celebrated physician of this place ; well known in the literary world for his excellent writings upon several medical subjects. His conversation is uncommonly interesting ; as, besides his skill in his profession, he is well versed in every branch of polite literature. His private character is no less respectable than his public ; and he is as much

esteemed for his great humanity as for his superior knowledge.

THE church of Laufanne, formerly the cathedral, is a magnificent gothic building, standing on the most elevated part of the town. It contains, among many other sepulchres, the tomb of Amadeus the Eighth, duke of Savoy, styled the Solomon of his age; but more known by the name of the anti-pope Felix the Fifth; who exhibited a singular instance in the annals of Europe, of a personage *twice* abdicating the pomp of sovereignty, and *twice* retiring to a private station. Having passed his early youth and opening manhood in the pursuits of ambition, he enlarged his dominions by the acquisition of the Genevois and Piedmont, and obtained an increase of rank by the erection of Savoy into a dutchy. Yet in the midst of his greatest success, and when fortune seemed most propitious, the sudden death of a beloved wife, and a narrow escape from assassination, inspired him with such a disgust of the world, that he resigned, in 1434, the administration of his estates to his eldest son; and, accompanied with a few lords of his court, retired to a palace at La Ripaille, on the borders of the lake of Geneva. In this palace, which he called an *hermitage*, he enjoyed, with an apparent indifference to the affairs of the world, a calm and tranquillity that seemed incompatible with his former aspiring ambition; until he was suddenly called forth to public notice in a more exalted station.

THE council of Basle having deposed Eugenius the Fourth, induced, according to some authors, by the reputation

tion which Amadeus had acquired for sanctity, influenced, according to others, by his largesses and intrigues, raised the *hermit* of La Ripaille to the papal throne. This event took place in 1439: the new pontiff quitting his favourite retreat, accepted the proffered dignity, either with a real or affected reluctance, and assumed the name of Felix the Fifth. The æra of his disputed pontificate was marked with turbulence and anarchy. In order to avoid the storms which agitated Europe, and to favour the natural indolence of his temper, he frequently retreated to his beloved hermitage, and directed the affairs of the church from that sequestered corner. Conscious at length that his acceptance of the papacy served to widen instead of healing the schism of the church; finding that he was opposed by the most powerful princes of Europe; that, on the death of his rival Eugenius, the cardinals of Rome had chosen another pope; and being ill supported by the remains of the council of Basle, he terminated the schism by resigning the papal tiara in favour of Nicholas the Fifth. In this transaction he proved his talents for negotiation by obtaining the following conditions: that he should enjoy the next rank to the pope; that he should be appointed vicar of the Roman see; and that all the acts passed in his pontificate should be valid. On his resignation he fixed his residence at La Ripaille, and died in 1451.

FELIX the Fifth has shared the fate of many equivocal characters. By some he is represented as a faint, by others as covering the most ambitious designs under the mask of sanctity; by the former, his residence at La Ripaille is described

described as the retreat of religious austerity; by the latter, as the seat of luxury. In this, as in most other cases, both parties seem to have exceeded the truth. On reviewing the principal events of his life, we may conclude, that a palace built by a sovereign prince, in which he was accompanied by many lords of his court, where he instituted an order of knighthood, and where he resided with the pomp and dignity of a sovereign pontiff, could be no common *hermitage*; and that he assumed the name, rather than passed the life, of a *hermit*; while the power and rank which he secured to himself, on his resignation of the papacy, sufficiently demonstrate, that he never intended to renounce the world. On the contrary, should we admit, that his life at La Ripaille was not embittered by penance and mortifications; yet as no contemporary authors, even those who were by no means partial to his character, have stigmatised his retirement, we ought not hastily to conclude, that it was the retreat of a mere voluptuary. But in whatever light his moral qualities may be considered, no one can withhold from him the character of an able politician.

It is not my intention to enter into a general or particular description of the Roman antiquities, which have been found in Switzerland; if you are curious in researches of that sort, I must refer you to Bochart, Miller, Spon, and other antiquarians, who have treated minutely of that subject. I cannot, however, avoid mentioning two lately-discovered Roman monuments, which are placed in the garden of Mr. Levade, near the church at Lausanne. The first is an altar of white marble with red veins, and was
found,

found, in 1782, by some workmen in digging the foundations of a house in the town of Vevay. It is broken in a horizontal direction; and what remains is a foot and a half long and a foot high. The inscription, though not entire, proves it to be an altar erected by the twentieth legion to the god Silvanus.

DEO SILVANO
ESPER URSUL.
FICIO LEG. XX.

DIC

THE second monument is a Roman mile-stone, which was discovered in a vineyard near Pauda, a few paces from the high road. It bears the following inscription:

Imp.
Cæs T. Æ. Avg
Antonino
Pio • PM. Krib -
Cos. III. P. P.
Avent: M. P. T.
XXXVIII.

THIS inscription ascertains a fact long unknown to the Swiss antiquarians. Bochart, among others, expresses his surprise, that no inscription, bearing the name Antoninus Pius, who was so great a benefactor to the antient Helvetians, has been as yet found in Switzerland. But this mile-stone, which was put up in the third consulship of that emperor,

peror, proves the existence of such an inscription; and is probably the prelude to the discovery of other monuments erected in his honour.

THE road from Laufanne to Vevay, runs along the sides of the mountains, between continued ranges of vineyards. The industry of the Swiss is no where more observable than in these parts: the mountains in many places, though naturally consisting of a bare steep rock, are thickly covered with vines. The mould has been brought from other grounds, in order to create a soil, and is supported by rows of stones ranged in strait lines like walls. But this mode of culture, however advantageous, and even necessary to the natives, occasions a disagreeable uniformity in the face of the country. The vines also do not form a pleasing and picturesque appearance, like those of the Valteline*, which are carried in beautiful festoons from tree to tree. The plants are low, and fastened to poles about four feet in height; and the high walls which enclose them, and border the road, frequently interrupt the view. This district between Laufanne and Vevay is called *La Vaux*, and contains the two pleasant little towns of Lutry and Cully; and the villages of St. Saphorin† and Corsier: it is entirely hilly, rising abruptly from

* See Vol. ii.

† In the church of St. Saphorin, is an antient Roman mile-stone, found near that village, with the following inscription:

TI. CLAUDIVS. DRVSI. F.
CÆS. AVG. GERM.
PONT. MAX. TRIB. POT. VII.
IMP. XII. P. P. COS. IIII.
F A
XXXVII.

This

from the lake. Above the vineyards, are rich meadows, and a continued forest.

VEVAY, the antient *Vibiscum*, is the principal town of the bailliage of that name: it is clean and well built, stands in a small plain at the foot of the mountains on the edge of the water, and is one of the few towns in the canton of Berne which carry on any trade. The borders of this part of the lake are much more contrasted, wild, and picturesque, than those about Geneva: the mountains of the Vallais and Savoy boldly project into the water, and form a semicircular chain that encloses the lake, except where they are divided by the Rhone; which flows into it a few leagues from Vevay.

VEVAY is distinguished as being the residence of Edmund Ludlow, the famous parliamentary general, whose name stands foremost among the few persons, who, in those times of misrule and confusion, uniformly acted with consistency and dignity. True to his republican principles, he no less violently opposed the daring usurpation of Cromwell, than the arbitrary measures of Charles the First; and could never be prevailed upon, either by threats or promises, to desert the cause, which he considered as the cause of justice and liberty. Being excepted, as one of the king's judges, from

This inscription ascertains two circumstances, which have been frequently called in question; namely, that the banks of the lake of Geneva, which border this part of Switzerland, were comprized within a Roman province, even so early as the time of Claudius; and also, that *Aventicum* was the chief town of this part of Helvetia: for, the mile-stones always referred to the capital town of the province in which they were placed. From St. Saphorin to *Avenches* is exactly 37,000 paces; which answer to the 37th mile-stone.

the act of indemnity passed at the restoration of Charles the Second, he wandered, without any fixed place of residence, until he found an asylum from the base attempts of his enemies at Vevay, under the protection of Berne.

AT the important period of the revolution, he returned to England, anxious to serve his country under our great deliverer; and William the Third, whose mind rose superior to the narrow prejudices of party, was no less desirous to employ a general of such approved experience and fidelity. But the king being addressed by the House of Commons to issue a proclamation for apprehending Ludlow, at the moment his majesty was going to employ him; he was accordingly compelled to quit England at this critical period, and again settled at Vevay. We may collect from his general character and conduct, that if he had been permitted to serve his country, he would have successfully employed his great military talents against the assertors of bigotry and despotism; and with the same zeal, which he had displayed in opposing an arbitrary government, would have supported the new administration; when the enormous prerogatives of the crown, against which he had unsheathed his sword, were abolished by law; and the freedom of the subject was established on the basis of equal liberty under the authority of a limited monarch. He died in 1693, in the sixty-fourth year of his age; and was interred in the church of Vevay. His monument is a plain grave-stone of black marble, containing a Latin inscription, which is printed in Addison's Travels. The house which he formerly inhabited stands near the gate leading to the Vallais, and the following motto is inscribed

inscribed over the door, which is still preserved out of respect to his memory. *Omne solum forti patria est, quia patris.*

THE Memoirs of Ludlow are written in a simple and perspicuous style; with the fidelity of a man who was actually engaged in the scenes which he describes, and with the spirit of a general zealous in the cause which he had espoused and defended. Perhaps his animated detail of the trial and execution of the Regicides, is scarcely surpassed by any narrative in antient or modern history.

NATURE can scarcely form a position more delightful than that of Chatillard or Clarens. It stands, not far from Vevay, above the village of Clarens, on an eminence, whose gentle declivity slopes gradually towards the lake: it commands a view of that majestic body of water, its fertile borders, and the bold rocks and alps of Savoy. The adjacent scenery consists of vineyards, fields of corn and pasture, and rich groves of oak, ash, and Spanish chestnut-trees. Although the situation and environs harmonize with the animated scenery in the *Eloise* of Rousseau, yet the castle by no means accords with the description in the same work. The traveller sees an oblong building with antient towers and a penthouse roof; in the inside a large hall that looks like a prison; and the whole bears rather the antiquated appearance of a feudal mansion inhabited by some turbulent baron, than the residence of the elegant and impassioned Julie.

OPPOSITE to Clarens, on the other shore of the lake, are the dark gloomy rocks of Meillerie. That village lies in the

recess of a small bay, at the foot of impending mountains, in some parts gently sloping, and clothed to the water's edge with dark forests; in others naked and perpendicular, bringing to recollection the fancied rocks of Leucate *. These are the scenes of the Nouvelle Eloise. Having obtained that novel at a circulating library in Laufanne, I continued, during these expeditions, to examine the position of the country, and compare it with the descriptions of Rousseau. Small objects may be magnified; but no pencil, however animated, can delineate the wonderful and sublime works of nature; even the warm colouring of Rousseau has not equalled the beauty of the situations. I read with attention the principal parts of that singular performance; and having now the scenery before me, I dwelt more particularly upon that letter, in which St. Preux relates his expedition to Meillerie; wherein love and despair are worked up almost to madness. Open that performance, read that letter, and consider that part of it, where St. Preux points out the number of towns and villages, the continued fertility and high cultivation of the Pays de Vaud, and contrasts it with the gloomy coast of Chablais, exhibiting only a few towns lying on the edge of the water; you will then see the happy and superior effects of liberty under a mild and equitable government, like that of Berne.

I am, &c.

* Je n'ai plus qu'un mot à vous dire, ô Julie. Vous connoissez l'antique usage du *rocher de Leucate*, dernier refuge des amans malheureux. Ce lieu-ci lui ressemble à bien des égards. La roche est escarpée l'eau est profonde, & je suis au desespoir.

LETTER 43.

CASTLE OF CHILLON—VILLENEUVE—AIGLE—SALT-
WORKS OF BEX AND AIGLE.

TRAVELLERS not unufually make an agreeable excursion from Vevay to the falt-works of Bex and Aigle.

THE road continues along a plain, with hills on one fide, and the lake on the other. Haller's judicious diftinction of the elevated part of this country, may from this fpot be well exemplified. The rocky alps are feen with their pyramidal tops fhooting into the heavens, and incrufted with eternal ice and fnow. Snow likewife, at various intervals, covers the fteep flopes beneath the aspiring peaks; rich pafturnage fucceeds; and the bottoms are verdant with forefts of firs. The mountains, fuch as the Jura and thofe rifing towards Denis and Gruyeres, are fertile in grafs, well wooded, their tops even, extenfive and arable; and though with little appearance of rock on the furface, yet internally filled with a hard yellowifh ftone fit for building, but impatient of the chiffel. The *collines*, or little hills, are frequent at the foot of the mountains, and feparated by little vallies watered by fmall brooks.

THE further I advanced, the nearer the mountains approached the lake; their nature changed, their height increafed, and their craggy tops and wooded fides convinced me, that I was approaching the genuine alps. Above the woods foared, in a moft picturesque manner, a lofty pyramidal

midal crag called *Le Dent de Jaman*. The woods were firs mixed with oak. The road lay close to the water's edge. The castle of Chillon, or rather the castellated house, a large pile with round and square towers; stands on a rock in the lake, and is connected to the land by a draw-bridge. The vaults are very fine; the arched roofs and the pillars which support it, are in a neat gothic stile. This castle, in 1536, was wrested from Charles the Third of Savoy by the canton of Berne, assisted by the Genevans, who furnished a frigate (their naval force) to besiege it by water. In a deep dungeon, below the level of the lake, the conquerors found Bonivard, prior of St. Victor, the intrepid antagonist of the dukes of Savoy, and the great assertor of Genevan independence. He had been imprisoned by the Savoyards during six years; and, by constant walking in his short limits, had worn a hollow in the rock. This castle was for a short time the residence of a bailif from Berne, until a more convenient house was purchased for that officer in Vevay. About half a league further is Villeneuve, a small town at the extremity of the lake. I travelled along the concave side of this magnificent piece of water from Geneva to Villeneuve fifty-four miles. It is in the shape of a crescent; Switzerland forms the hollow; Savoy the convex part; its greatest breadth is from St. Sulpice to Grande Rive, where it is twelve miles wide. Savoy affords a rude and awful boundary of aspiring alps, craggy and covered with the ice of ages. The country from Geneva to the environs of Lausanne, slopes for a considerable way to the margin of the lake, and is enriched with all the varieties which nature can bestow. The long ridge of the Jura, fertile in pasturage, and varied with woods, backs this beautiful tract. Near Lausanne the banks rise very considerably,



J. Smith del.

J. Wilson fecit.

Castle of Chillon

Engraved as the 2d. volume 1794 by Richard Smith, London.

fiderably, and form a most charming terrace. A few miles beyond Laufanne is a rapid descent. Near Vevay begins a plain, which is continued far beyond the end of the lake, but contracting, by the approach of the mountains, towards the water. The colour of the water is extremely beautiful, clear, and at a distance seems of a most lovely blue.

NEAR Geneva the coast abounds in small pebbles covered with a brown incrustation. From Geneva as far as Laufanne the shores are sandy; but from Laufanne to Chillon appear ledges of rocks hard and calcareous: the extremity of the lake is a marsh formed by the collected mud of the Rhone. The depth is various. M. de Luc asserts, that on sounding it he had found the greatest depth to be a hundred and sixty fathoms: like all inland lakes enclosed within high mountains, it is subject to sudden storms.

I AM uncertain whether any birds frequent the lake which are not common to the rest of Switzerland. The tippet grebes * appear here in December and retire in February. The skins are an elegant article of luxury, and sell for about twelve or fourteen shillings each. These birds are obliged to breed in other places, this lake being almost totally destitute of reeds and rushes, in which they form their floating nest. From Villeneuve the road runs through a beautiful valley, consisting of the richest meadow and corn land, very populous and finely wooded, and expanding to the breadth of four miles. The alps bound each side, with

* Pennant's Brit. Zool. vol. ii. No. 222.

tops broken into vast crags of various forms. I passed near La Roche, where a director of the salt-works is deputed by the government of Berne; and which is rendered memorable by the residence of Haller, who filled that office from 1758 to 1766. During his retirement in this place, that distinguished man prepared for public inspection many of his numerous publications, and particularly his immortal work on physiology.

I LEFT at a little distance Yvorne, ruined, in 1584, by the fall of a mountain occasioned by an earthquake; crossed the torrent called La Grande Eau, and halted at Aigle, a good town, seated at the feet of some small round hills prettily covered with firs. This country was conquered from the Savoyards by Berne in 1475, and was made a distinct government consisting of four *Mandemens*. The governor resides at Aigle. It formerly had its particular heads, the family of Torrens; but the last count formally resigned his pretensions at Berne in 1553. This government of Aigle reaches to the Pays de Vaud; and, when under the dominion of the house of Savoy, was comprised within that district; at present it is classed under the German division of that canton, although French is the language of the natives. Further on the valley is greatly contracted, and so filled with trees as to appear a great forest. The laburnum abounds here in a wild state. The wood is beautifully veined, of great strength, and much used for wedges and musical instruments. The variety with short spikes of flowers has the most elegant veins, and is called the *ebony* of the Alps: Pliny says its wood is the hardest next to the ebony. The cornelian cherry is common in the
hedges,

hedges, and the fruit is frequently preserved with sugar. The *Macbaleb* cherry, or *Prunus Macbaleb*, is to be found in these parts; the wood is red, of fine scent, and in request for handles of knives; it is known among cutlers by the name of *Bois de St. Lucie*. A pleasant scented water is distilled from this tree; and the seeds are used to give a fragrancy to soap. Between Aigle and Bex is a most picturesque view of the castle of St. Tryphon, on the summit of a lofty insulated rock in the middle of the plain; it is surrounded with wood, and realises Milton's description of an antient castle,

“ *Bosom'd high in tufted trees.*”

I am informed it is built of marble, which is no wonder, as a beautiful black species is found very near. St. Tryphon was a Phrygian, who is said to have suffered martyrdom at Nice in 251, at the time of the persecution under the emperor Decius.

BEX is a small town at the foot of the mountains, five miles from the salt-works at Bevieux. Between Bex and Bevieux, I observed the larch in great plenty. Painters, from the time of Pliny to that of Raphael, trusted their works to this wood, which the Roman naturalist styles *immortale lignum*. The wood is reckoned excellent for all works which are to lie under water; and the borderers on the lake of Geneva prefer it for building their vessels. In these parts I saw most beautiful woods of chefnut. Haller says that they extend some leagues; he also informs us, that they are found in other parts of Switzerland, and even in desert places in

some of the transalpine parts; accident must have brought them thither, as it appears from Pliny, that these trees were first introduced into Europe from Sardis.

UPON our arrival at the salt-springs, I put on a workman's jacket, and went into the mountain about 3,000 feet almost horizontally. The gallery is about six feet high, and four broad, and is as nicely hollowed as if it had been cut with a chisel: it is hewn in a black rock, veined in some places with white gypsum. The salt is procured from some springs, which are found within a solid rock, perforated at a great expence: the richest source yields twenty-eight pounds of salt *per cent.* and the poorest but half a pound in the same quantity. Near these springs are several warm sources, strongly impregnated with sulphur; some of which contain a mixture of salt, and will flame when a lighted candle is put into the pipe through which they flow. No solid salt, excepting a few small cubes, has been yet discovered; but the mountain is replete with particles. Rocks of white gypsum or alabaster, mixed with bluish clay, are common near the springs, in the same manner as may be observed in the pits of Northwich, in Cheshire.

AFTER travelling in this subterraneous passage near three quarters of a mile, I observed a great wheel of thirty-five feet diameter, which serves to raise the brine from the depth of about seventy feet. From this place is a shaft three hundred feet high, which is cut through the mountain to the surface, for the purpose of introducing fresh air. I noticed

ticed two reservoirs hollowed in the solid rock for holding the brine; one whereof was a hundred and sixty feet square, and nine in depth. Since my first expedition to these pits in 1776, the workmen had pierced the rock twenty-five feet deeper, and cut a gallery a hundred feet in length. They had also began to form a third reservoir, which is to contain 5,500 cubic feet; and of this nearly half was finished. The brine deposited in these reservoirs is conveyed, by means of two thousand pipes, about a league to Bevieux, where the salt is extracted. The brine pits near Aigle contain only from two to one-half *per cent.*; and yield annually about a third as much as those of Bevieux, or about 5,000 quintals. The salt is much whiter and heavier than that of Bevieux, and consequently bears a higher price.

THESE, which are the only salt-works in Switzerland, scarcely yield a neat yearly profit of more than £. 3,000; and furnish only one-twelfth of the annual consumption in the canton. The remainder is procured chiefly from France, which is obliged by treaty to provide the Swiss states with this commodity at a moderate price: and indeed so high is the tax upon salt in that kingdom, that even the French salt is fold two-thirds cheaper in Switzerland, than in many parts of France*. The ordinary price of common salt throughout the canton, is at the rate of three-half-pence per pound.

* At Paris, where it is the dearest, a pound of salt is sold for about 13 sols, or about six-pence of our money: in some other parts of France, for instance in Franche Comté, a pound costs only 4 or 5 sols; but it is furnished to the Swiss at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ sols.

L E T T E R 44.

VALLEY AND LAKE OF JOUX—ORBE—ST. BARTHELEMI—YVERDUN.

Yverdun, Sept. 7.

THE chain of mountains called the *Jura*, begins in the canton of Zurich, extends along the Rhine, into the canton and bishopric of Basle, stretches into the canton of Soleure and the principality of Neuchatel, branches out towards the Pays de Vaud, separates that country from Franche Comté and Burgundy, and continues beyond the frontiers of the Genevois as far as the Rhone. In various parts of the Pays de Vaud this chain forms many elevated vallies much visited by travellers, amongst which, not the least remarkable, is the valley of the lake of Joux, upon the top of that part of the Jura called Mont Joux; and which lies in the bailliage of Roman Motier. This valley contains several neat and well-peopled villages, and is beautifully checkered with wood, arable, and pasture ground. It is watered by two picturesque lakes; the largest of which is called the lake of Joux. One shore is high rock, covered with wood; the opposite banks form a gentle ascent, well cultivated and producing grain, backed by an abrupt ridge adorned with pines, beech, and oak. The smaller lake, called Lac Brenet, is in its shape more oval, and richly bordered with corn-fields and cottages. These two lakes are divided by a narrow neck of land; and over the channel

or

or little freight is a wooden bridge of a single arch, which leads to the village of Charbonniers.

NEAR the small village of Abbaye, a rivulet gushes from the bottom of the rock, and loses itself in the largest lake. From the smaller lake descends a stream, which is lost in a hollow gulph called *L'Entonnior*, or the Funnel, a name common to several others in this place. In this gulph several mills are placed, and turned by the force of the current. About two miles further, on the opposite side of the mountain, the river Orbe bursts forth, and is probably produced by the stream here ingulphed. This little vale is very populous, containing about three thousand inhabitants, who are remarkably industrious. Some make watches, but the greatest part are employed in polishing crystals, granites, and marcasites. In the small village of Pont, where we lodged, the greatest part of the inhabitants bear the surname of Rochat; a name which runs through the village of Charbonniere, with the exception of only two or three families; and is prevalent likewise in that of Abbaye: the whole number of these Rochats amounts to above a thousand. I inquired whether, like the Scottish clans, they took the appellation from any chief; or whether they were supposed to be descendants of the same family: I was assured, that the latter is the fact, and that their ancestors came originally from France. These parts are much infested with bears and wolves. In our ascent to this delightful vale, and as we descended through a variety of hill, valley, wood, and lawn; we had a most extensive prospect, comprehending great part of the Pays de Vaud, the lake of Geneva with its mountainous boundary, and that of Neuchâtel.

tel. These two lakes appear, from that high point of view, to be nearly upon the same level*, with no considerable swell of the country intervening.

WE passed through a beautiful and picturesque country from Romain Motier to Orbe; which, according to antiquarians, was the most antient town, and once the most powerful, of all Helvetia. It was called *Urba*, and was the capital of the *Pagus Urbigenus*: no remains however exist at present of its antient splendour. Some antique fortifications, an old castle, and a round tower, are works probably of later and more turbulent times; erected, perhaps, when this country was divided into a number of feudal sovereignties. I am greatly pleased with the romantic situation of this town, the boldness of the single-arched bridge projecting over the Orbe, the wild scenery on the banks of that river, its frequent cataracts, and with various picturesque views in the environs.

MR. VENEL, an eminent surgeon of this town, has formed, under the protection of the government of Berne, an establishment which well deserves the attention of the humane and curious traveller. It is an infirmary for the reception of those objects, who are born with distorted limbs, or have by accident acquired that misfortune. The children are lodged and boarded in the house, under the care of his assistant, who charges himself with all the detail of house-

* According to Mr. de Luc, the lake of Neuchatel is 159 French feet above that of Geneva.

keeping,

keeping, and of instructing those, whose age renders it requisite, that their education should not be neglected. Mr. Venel's skill in improving and simplifying those machines necessary for his purpose, has been sufficiently attested by various cures.

THOUGH he chiefly confines his attempts to infants and children, yet he has performed several cures on adult persons. His most efficacious remedy is a machine which he has invented to embrace the patient's limbs when in bed, and which is so contrived as to act without disturbing their rest. Ingenious as his method is, yet he acknowledges, that much of his success depends on the mild treatment of the patients, and on having them continually under his inspection. I was convinced indeed of the mildness of his treatment, by observing several of these children, from four to ten years of age, crawling about the ground, and diverting themselves with great cheerfulness, although cased up in their machinery. It may not perhaps be unworthy of remark, that Mr. Venel, on the admission of a miserable object, takes in plaister of Paris the mold of the distorted limbs, in order to demonstrate the change that takes place. Such an establishment redounds highly to the honour of Mr. Venel, and the government who protects it, and is worthy of imitation in all countries.

ORBE, which is governed by its own magistrates, is comprised within the bailliage of Echalens, belonging to Berne and Friburgh: these two cantons alternately send a bailif, who resides at Echalens, and remains in office during five years.

years. When Berne appoints the bailif, an appeal lies from his decisions to the fovereign council of Friburgh; and to the government of Berne, when he is nominated by Friburgh. By these means a great check is laid upon the exactions of the bailif: and I am informed, that justice is nowhere more equally administered than in these common bailliages of the two cantons.

PERHAPS one of the most beautiful and finest positions in Switzerland is the castle of St. Barthelemi, the seat of Count d'Affry, colonel of the Swiss guards; and now inhabited by his son, count Louis d'Affry, to whom I was indebted for a most kind and friendly reception. This antient family-seat stands on an eminence in the bailliage of Echalens, about three miles from Orbe, near the high road which leads from Lausanne to Yverdun. The sides of the eminence are feathered with wood; and below are rich fields and meadows of the finest verdure, watered by two lively torrents which unite and form the Falun. Upon the high road, the count has reared an obelisk, on which he has inscribed, in the true spirit of toleration and forbearance, the following words, "*Praise God, all ye nations,*" in the English, Latin, French, and German languages.

THE castle commands a prospect of a most fertile and well-wooded country, gently broken into hill and dale; on one side appears a distant view of the Jura and the hills of Burgundy and Franche Comté; and, on the other, the horizon is bounded by the rugged alps in the canton of Berne and in the Vallais, by Mount Velain, the highest point of
of

of St. Bernard and Mont Blanc, whose superior elevation above the surrounding heights is such, that its summit reflects the rays of the rising sun several minutes sooner, and retains those of the setting sun several minutes later than any of the circumjacent mountains.

FROM St. Barthelemi we descended into the plain, which stretches to the lake of Yverdun. This plain was formerly covered as far as Entreroches (three leagues from its present position) and probably further, by that lake: it is now, for a considerable part, a great swamp. Within a quarter of a mile of the town, are warm baths which are strongly sulphureous, and much frequented during the summer months. Yverdun is large, airy, and well-built with stone, like the towns in the Pays de Vaud; it stands near the lake, in a small island formed by the two branches of the river Thiele. Between the town and the lake there is a pleasant lawn extending to the water, and planted with avenues of lime-trees. Yverdun carries on scarcely any trade, and its principal support arises from the passage of the merchandise between Piedmont and Germany. This town is celebrated for its printing-press, established in the beginning of the present century; but entirely neglected until, some years ago, it was renewed by *Felice*, a Neapolitan of learning and abilities.

THE lake of Yverdun, or of Neuchatel, stretches from south to north about twenty miles in length, and in some places about five in breadth. Its shores near Yverdun are covered with country-houses. It is somewhat extraordinary, that the dull and tasteless uniformity of the French gardens

should have been adopted by the Swifs, whose country abounds with noble and picturesque situations, and where nature wantons in the most luxuriant variety. I have frequently observed, in the midst of the most romantic scenes, a majestic forest sliced into regular alleys; and at the very borders of the finest lakes, artificial pools of water edged with sun-burnt parterres. Should any person, in this, accuse me of national prejudice, let me exclaim with Voltaire, who certainly cannot be convicted of partiality to the English:

*Jardins plantés en symétrie,
 Arbres nains tirés au cordeau,
 Celui qui vous mit au niveau
 En vain s'applaudit, se récrie;
 En voyant ce petit morceau,
 Jardins il faut que je vous fuie,
 Trop d'art me revolte et m'ennuie:
 J'aime mieux ces vastes forêts
 La nature libre et hardie
 Irreguliere dans ses traits
 S'accorde avec ma fantaisie.*

I am, &c.

LETTER

L E T T E R 45.

GRANSON—NEUCHATEL—MR. PURY'S BENE-
FACTIONS.

WE skirted the west side of the lake of Neuchatel through Granson, the principal town of a bailliage of that name, belonging to Berne and Friburgh, and remarkable for the battle in which Charles the Bold, duke of Burgundy, was defeated by the Swifs in 1476. We entered the principality of Neuchatel about six miles from that town, and passed through St. Aubin, Boudri, Colombier, lying pleasantly upon the borders of the water. The road runs along the side of the Jura, through a country that resembled, in some measure, the district of La Vaux, between Lausanne and Vevay: the sides of the Jura are almost the whole way covered with vines, supported in many parts by low stone-walls. The borders of this lake are more uniform than those of the lake of Geneva; and do not rise into such high, irregular, and grotesque alps as the coast of Chablais. Towards Granson and St. Aubin, the country is more diversified with meadows and corn-fields; nearer to Neuchatel, the summits of the mountains are clothed with forest, and the midland and lower parts entirely planted with vines. Between the lake and the Jura several rivers burst from the rock in considerable streams; and, after turning several mills, fall into the lake at a little distance from their source. The largest is that of La Serriere, near a small village of the

same name, which we crossed in our way to Colombier, where we dined with a family whose acquaintance we had formed at the baths of Leuk. We passed a very agreeable day with these amiable persons; by whom we were received with that frankness and unaffected ease which characterises true politeness.

AFTER dinner some musicians of the country performed the *Ranz des vaches*: that famous air which was forbidden to be played among the Swiss troops in the French service; as it awakened in the soldiers such a longing recollection of their native country, that it often produced in them a settled melancholy, and occasioned frequent desertion. The French call this species of patriotic regret, *la maladie du pays*. There is nothing peculiarly striking in the tune; but, as it is composed of the most simple notes, the powerful effect of its melody upon the Swiss soldiers, in a foreign land, is the less surprising. Nothing indeed revives so lively a remembrance of former scenes, as a piece of favourite music which we were accustomed to hear amid our earliest and dearest connections: upon such an occasion, a long train of associated ideas will necessarily arise in the mind, and, if not totally selfish, melt it into tenderness. To use the language of poetry,

There is in souls a sympathy with sounds.

Wherever I have heard

A kindred melody, the scene recurs,

And with it all its pleasures and its pains.*

* Cowper's Task, book vi.

It is observable, that those who inhabit mountainous countries are most subject to this *maladie du pays*, because their habits of life are essentially different from the customs and manners of other people. Accordingly, the Scotch highlanders, and the Biscayans, as well as the Swifs, when absent from their country, are peculiarly apt to be affected with every circumstance that recalls it to their minds.

THE town of Neuchatel is small, and contains about 3,000 souls. It lies partly upon the little plain between the lake and the Jura, and partly upon the declivity of that mountain: in consequence of which situation, some of its streets are very steep. At the commencement of the present century, commerce was almost wholly unknown in this town; as the ridiculous pride of its being deemed degrading, generally prevailed among the inhabitants. This senseless prejudice is now, however, nearly extinguished. The chief article of exportation is wine, produced from the neighbouring vineyards, and much esteemed. Manufactures also of printed linens and cottons have been established with success: and within these few years, several merchants have raised large fortunes.

POSTSCRIPT.

Oct. 3, 1786.

THE mildness of the government, and the general well-being of the inhabitants, are visibly demonstrated from the increase of population among the natives, and the prodigious
influx

influx of settlers. The number of souls in the principality of Neuchâtel and Vallengin being, in 1752, only 28,017 subjects, and 4,318 aliens, amounted, in 1784, to 31,576 subjects, and 9,704 aliens, which gives an increase of near a fourth part within the space of thirty-two years. The facility of acquiring the burghership of Neuchâtel, has also prevented any decrease of its inhabitants. Thus the magistrates, between the years 1760 and 1770, admitted forty-one burghers; from 1770 to 1780, forty-six; from 1780 to 1785, fifty-one; in all, a hundred and thirty-eight. Many of these settlers had children before they purchased the burghership; and thirty-eight were foreigners, either German, French, or Swiss. Several public works and buildings have been lately executed at Neuchâtel, at an expence far exceeding the revenues, or even wants of this little state. Amongst others I shall mention a superb causeway leading towards the valley of St. Imier, an alms-house and a town-house, which is built of such solid materials, as if it was intended to survive to the most distant posterity, and to rival the duration of the much-famed Roman capitol*.

THE person, to whom the burghers of Neuchâtel principally owe the embellishment of their town, is Mr. David Pury, late banker of the court at Lisbon. He was a citizen of Neuchâtel, and was born in 1709: his father was mayor of Lignieres, afterwards colonel and justice of peace in South-Carolina, and founder of Purisburgh. Having received his education in his native town, he quitted it, as some say, in

* *Capitoli IMMOBILE saxum.*

Virgil.

great poverty, and repaired to Geneva, where he passed his apprenticeship, but in what house, or in what trade, the person, who obligingly furnished me with these anecdotes, does not mention. From Geneva he went to London, and acted as one of the clerks to an eminent jeweller, where he acquired a great skill for estimating at sight the value of diamonds. After a long residence in England, he established himself in Lisbon, and carried on a very extensive commerce, particularly in brazil-wood and precious stones. Being appointed court-banker, he rapidly increased his fortune. This generous man, however, did not, with a parsimony not unusual in persons who have enriched themselves by commerce, consign his money to his coffers, or sparingly distribute his largesses; on the contrary, while living, he remitted large sums of money to his native town; and being unmarried, and having none but distant relations, left his country his heir. The following is a list of the sums which he gave away, either in charitable donations, or for the improvement of Neuchâtel.

FROM the year 1771 to 1786, £. 100 annually for the poor of Neuchâtel, and the same sum for those of Vallengin, which, for fifteen years, amounts to £. 3,000. Different sums at various periods, and for divers uses, to January 1785, amounting to £. 15,900. To this must be added the purchase of near 7,000 tickets in the lottery towards raising a fund for building and endowing an hospital; which tickets he also presented to the said hospital. He died on the 31st of May 1785; and the remains of his fortune, bequeathed to his country, after the payment of a few legacies, does not
fall

fall short of £. 160,000, which, together with the contributions in his life-time, render his benefactions equal to almost £. 200,000. His grateful country obtained from the king of Prussia the title of baron in his favour; a title which, through his singular modesty, he neither bore nor used in the signature of his letters. The citizens of Neuchatel have also placed the portrait of this generous benefactor in one of the apartments in which government assemble; and have ordered a marble bust to be executed for the new town-house.

THE large legacy which Pury has bequeathed to the town, being more than sufficient to complete the buildings and public works, it would well become the wisdom of government to employ part of the remainder, rather in useful undertakings, than in the construction of new edifices, which are not wanted. With respect to those works, which regard the health and convenience of the town, it may be sufficient to hint, that the public walks, which are now much neglected, might be improved; the streets, which are extremely dirty, be cleansed; and the torrent, which traverses the town, and threatens it with frequent inundations, may be turned. But particularly an ample field is open for the protection and encouragement of literature; for even in the essential article of education this place is so deficient, that it can scarcely be said to possess a single seminary; consequently the inhabitants, though endowed with lively parts and good capacities, are much less informed than those of the other Protestant towns in Switzerland. A new spirit may be given to the study of the arts and sciences; and the seminary

nary may be rendered of great public utility by appointing two or three professors for the instruction of youth*. Thus future generations, enlightened by means of this benefaction, will repeat with satisfaction the name of Pury; joining in their grateful commemorations those magistrates, who first opened the sources of science and literature, and taught them to flow for the improvement of a distant posterity.

* It gives me pleasure to add, that the members of the government of Neuchâtel seem worthy of the trust which has been committed to them. They have cleansed the town, improved and beautified the public walks; augmented the salaries of the clergy and professors, and have instituted a seminary for the education of youth.

LETTER 46.

EXPEDITION TO LOCLE AND CHAUX DE FOND.

Neuchatel, Sept. 11.

I AM charmed with an expedition to the summit of the Jura; and will give you a short account of it, while the impression remains warm upon my mind.

THE principality of Neuchatel and Vallengin, stretches from the lake to the limits of Franche Comté; containing in length, from north to south, about twelve leagues, and about six in its greatest breadth. The district of Neuchatel occupies all the plain, together with the lower parts of the mountains: while Vallengin is totally enclosed within the Jura. Parallel chains of the Jura run from east to west, and form, in the most elevated parts, several valleys. The lower grounds of this chain are arable lands and vineyards: the higher consist of large tracts of forest, which in many parts have been cleared, and converted into considerable pastures, intermixed with fields of barley and oats. But the singular genius and industry of the numerous inhabitants, particularly demands the attention of every curious traveller.

WE passed through *Vallengin*, the capital of the district of that name; a small open burgh, with a modern castle built on some antient ruins. We then crossed the *Val de Ruz*, which contains above twenty villages, situated at the foot of the

the mountains which border the valley: the inhabitants in general are employed in agriculture, some few excepted, who follow occasionally the mechanical arts. We arrived about mid-day at La Chaux de Fond, a large handsome village lying in a broad valley which reaches the Franche Comté: from thence we proceeded to Locle, through a continued range of pleasing cottages, which skirt both sides of the road; and are scattered likewise over the country. As these two little towns or villages carry on the same commerce; I shall comprehend them both under one common description.

LA Chaux de Fond and Locle, together with the districts belonging to them, may contain about six thousand inhabitants, remarkably distinguished for their genius, industry, and skill in the mechanical arts. They carry on an extensive traffic in lace, stockings, cutlery, and other merchandise of their own manufacture: but watch-making, and every branch of clock-work, are the articles in which they particularly excel. They not only make every instrument employed in those arts, but have invented several: and all sorts of workmen necessary for the completion of that branch of business, such as painters, enamellers, engravers, and gilders, are found in these villages; where, upon an average, about forty thousand watches are yearly made. The genius and industry, indeed, observable upon these mountains, exhibit a scene uncommonly pleasing. As every individual is sure, not only of obtaining a comfortable maintenance for himself, but also of soon placing his children in a way of procuring their own livelihood; the people marry very early.

NOT many years ago, the greatest part of these valleys was almost one continued forest; but the wonder-working powers of industry have happily changed the scene into flourishing villages and fertile pastures. The increase of population will appear from the following fact: Formerly the produce of the country was more than sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants; at present, although considerably more cultivated, it scarcely furnishes an eighth part of the provisions necessary for interior consumption: the remainder is drawn from Franche Comté. And no wonder; for beside the natural effect of their frequent and early marriages; every stranger who brings a certificate of his good behaviour, is at liberty to settle, and to follow any trade without the least restriction. Here, no apprenticeship is necessary; nothing is contraband; and industry exerts herself untaxed.

BESIDE those particular arts I have already mentioned, several inhabitants of Locle and La Chaux de Fond are well skilled in other branches of mechanical science, and have invented useful mathematical and astronomical instruments. Among those who have eminently distinguished themselves in this way, is the famous Jaquet Droz, who is now at Paris; and whose son exhibited in England several automatical figures of a very singular and surprising construction: one played upon the harpsichord; another drew landscapes; and, what is still more extraordinary, a third copied any word presented to it, or wrote down whatever was dictated by any of the company. These are certainly wonderful inventions, and seem to exalt the powers of mechanism; but still they are mere toys, and an unworthy waste of great genius:

genius: it is Swift making riddles. How much more laudably, and with equal success, might the same talents and application have been exerted in improving, or adding to, those instruments and apparatus, which are necessary to the astronomer and natural philosopher!

THE origin of watch-making in these parts, as related by Mr. Osterwald, the historiographer of these mountains, is extremely curious; and the truth of his account was confirmed to me by several artists both of Locle and La Chaux de Fond. In 1679, one of the inhabitants brought from London a watch; which being out of order, he entrusted it to Daniel John Richard, of La Sagne. Richard, after examining the mechanism with great attention, determined to attempt making a watch from the model before him: but to this end he was destitute of every other assistance than the powers of his own native genius. Accordingly he employed a whole year in inventing and finishing the several instruments previously necessary for his purpose; and in six months from that period (by the sole force of his own penetrating and persevering talents) he produced a complete watch. But his ambition and industry did not stop here: beside applying himself successfully to the invention of several new instruments useful for the perfection of his work, he took a journey to Geneva, where he gained considerable information in the art. He continued for some time the only watchmaker in these parts; but business increasing, he instructed several associates; by whose assistance he was enabled to supply from his single shop all the demands of the neighbouring country. Towards the beginning
of

of the present century he removed to Locle, where he died in 1741, leaving five sons, who followed their father's occupation. The knowledge and practice of the art gradually spread itself, is now become almost the universal business of the inhabitants, and may be deemed the principal cause of the population observable in these mountains.

THE inventive genius of this mechanical people is not merely observable in the above-mentioned articles, but discovers itself upon all occasions where it can be applied to the purposes of their convenience and accommodations. To give an instance: the rocks in most parts of the alps being exceedingly hard and solid, the waters usually make their way along their sides, and rush down in perpetual torrents: but the strata which compose the Jura being less firm and compact; the rains and melted snow penetrating into the crevices, form subterraneous channels, and issue in rivulets at the bottom of the mountains. Now the peasants, in order to avail themselves of this peculiarity, have, in the midst of these subterraneous channels, and with much labour, erected mills, which are turned by the descending torrents. For this purpose the builders have constructed wheels in places where it seemed scarcely practicable: have invented new modes of scaffolding, and a great variety of other ingenious contrivances in order to facilitate their work. The natives of these districts are exceedingly courteous to strangers who visit their country. They are in general very well informed in several branches of knowledge; and, as they usually employ their leisure hours in reading, many of the villages contain circulating libraries. The houses are plaistered and
white-

white-washed; though small, are commodious and well-built; and furnished with a degree of neatness, and even elegance, peculiarly striking in these sequestered mountains. Such perfect ease and plenty reigns throughout these mountains, that I scarcely saw one object of poverty: the natural effects of industry under a mild and equitable government. It is of these vallies, and of their inhabitants, that Rousseau gives so enchanting a description in his letter to D'Alembert.

THE rock which forms the base of the Jura, is mostly composed of calcareous stone; and perhaps there is no spot in Europe where are found so large a quantity of petrified shells and marine plants in so small a space. Near Locle I observed a ridge of hills, that seemed to consist entirely of *pierres arborisées*, or stones bearing the impression of plants. In returning, we had a most sublime prospect of the lakes of Neuchatel, Bienne, and Morat, with the high and rugged chain of alps stretching from the cantons of Berne and Friburgh, as far as the Vallais, and the mountains of Chablais.

I am, &c.

LETTER

L E T T E R 47.

GOVERNMENT OF NEUCHATEL.

ON the death of the dukes of Nemours, in 1707, the sovereignty of Neuchatel and Vallengin became vacant; and being claimed by Frederic the First, king of Prussia, as heir to the prince of Orange, his right was acknowledged by the states of the country. Upon his death it descended to his son Frederic William, who transmitted it with his other dominions to Frederic the Second.

THE constitution of Neuchatel is a limited monarchy. The machine of this government is indeed actuated by such nice springs, and its wheels are so exceedingly complicated, that it is very difficult for a stranger to distinguish, with any degree of accuracy, the prerogatives of the sovereign, and the franchises of the people; particularly as some, even of their most important privileges, depend upon mutual acquiescence and immemorial custom, and not upon written laws. I shall endeavour, however, to trace the principal features of this government; the result of my best inquiries during my continuance at Neuchatel.

UPON the accession of Frederic the First a charter of privileges, under the name of general articles, which in a great measure established the prerogatives of the prince, and the liberties of the subject, was signed and ratified by the king.

king. Beside these general articles, which his present majesty upon his accession promised to preserve inviolate; others were added at the pacification of 1768, which finished the dispute between the sovereign and subject. By this pacification, the king not only renewed his assent to the *general* articles; but also explained them, wherever their tenor had been mistaken; and expressly confirmed several other privileges in favour of the people, which had hitherto been equivocal, or not duly observed.

THE most important of these general articles are: 1. The sovereign promises to maintain the Reformed religion as by law established; and to tolerate no other sect, except within the districts of Landeron and Creffier, where the catholic religion is dominant. 2. No person but a native of the country is capable of holding any civil or military charge, excepting that of governor, who may be a foreigner; and the same incapacity is extended even to natives, who are in the service of a foreign prince. 3. All the subjects have a right to enter into the service of a foreign power; provided that power is not in actual war against the prince, as sovereign of Neuchâtel; and if the sovereign should be engaged in hostilities, which do not concern Neuchâtel, that state may continue neuter, except the Helvetic body should be involved in the contest*. 4. Justice shall

* The latter clause of this article is not so clearly worded as it might have been; from a delicacy, I suppose, of not expressly stipulating, that the state of Neuchâtel and Vallengin may oppose their sovereign by arms, in case the Swiss should be engaged in

any war against him. It is evident, however, that they consider their connection with the Helvetic body, as of superior obligation to that with their prince, as sovereign of Neuchâtel and Vallengin.

shall be equitably administered: and, for this purpose, the three estates of Neuchatel and Vallengin shall be annually assembled. 5. The magistrates and officers of justice, instead of holding their employments during pleasure, shall enjoy them during their good behaviour. And, by the late pacification it was further agreed, that the prince is not himself the judge of their good behaviour; but that in order to be deprived of their places, they must be fully convicted of malversation in office, by certain judges at Neuchatel appointed for that purpose. 6. The sovereign shall take the accustomed oath upon his accession; and promise to maintain all the rights, liberties, franchises, and customs, written or unwritten.

It is remarkable, that one of the most essential rights of the subject, depends upon immemorial usage; for, that “the sovereign shall be considered as resident only at Neuchatel,” is in the number of their unwritten immunities. Now this privilege, in conjunction with the third article just cited, forms the basis of their civil liberty. By the former, the prince, when absent, can only address his subjects through his governor and the council of state; and no subject can be tried out of the country, or otherwise than by

The remarkable clause in question is as follows:

Et qu'en outre et conformément à des articles exprés et formels des franchises tant de la bourgeoisie de Neufchâtel que de celle de Vallengin, cet Etat ne puisse être engagé dans aucune guerre, ni les sujets d'icelui obligés d'y marcher, que ce ne soit pour la propre guerre du Prince, c'est à dire, pour la defence de

l'Etat, et pour les guerres que le Prince pourroit avoir en tant que souverain de Neufchatel et non autrement: en sorte que s'il avoit guerre pour raison de quelque autre Etat, terres et seigneuries, l'Etat de Neufchâtel ne soit point obligé d'y entrer; mais en ce cas devra demeurer dans la neutralité, à moins que tout le corps Helvétique en général n'y prit part et intérêt.

judges

judges appointed by the constitution; by the latter, should the king of Prussia be at war with all Germany; the people of Neuchâtel and Vallengin are by no means obliged to arm in his defence; but individuals may even serve against him, so long as the powers whom they serve, are not engaged in hostilities against their country*.

BESIDE these general articles, that comprehend the privileges of the people at large; there are others which the sovereign is equally bound to maintain, relating to the town of Neuchâtel and the district of Vallengin, in particular. The prince confers nobility, nominates to the principal offices of state, both civil and military, and appoints the chatelains and mayors, who preside in the courts of justice. His revenues, which are very moderate, and scarcely amount to £. 5,000 a year, arise from certain demesnes; from a small land-tax; from the tythes of wine and corn; and from the tenth of the value on the sale of immoveables. With regard to commerce, no subject pays any duties either of importation or exportation, except for foreign wines imported into the town of Neuchâtel.

DURING the absence of the prince, he is represented by a governor of his own appointing; who enjoys considerable honours, but is extremely limited in his authority. He convokes the three estates, presides in that assembly, and has the

* When Henry duke of Longueville, and sovereign of Neuchâtel, was, in 1650, sent to the castle of Vincennes, Felix de Mareval, captain of the Swiss guards, kept guard in his turn, though he was citizen of Neuchâtel, at the door of the prison, in which *his sovereign* was confined.

casting vote when the suffrages happen to be equal: he enjoys the power also, in criminal cases, of pardoning, or of mitigating the sentence. In the governor's absence his place is supplied by the senior counsellor of state.

THE three estates of Neuchatel, form the superior tribunal of this country, and receive appeals from the inferior courts of justice. They are composed of twelve judges, divided into three estates: the first consists of the four senior counsellors of state, who are noble; the second, of the four chatelains of Landeron, Boudry, Val de Travers, and Thielle*; and in case of absence, their place is supplied by the respective mayors in the principality of Neuchatel, according to a regulated order; the third is composed of four counsellors of the town of Neuchatel. The judges in the first and second division hold their places for life; those in the third are appointed annually. This body ordinarily assembles every year in the month of May; but is convoked extraordinarily upon particular occasions: the town of Neuchatel is always the place of meeting. These three estates are not the representatives of the people; nor do they possess the legislative authority. They are, properly speaking, the supreme court of judicature, which receives all appeals, and decides finally all causes, even those relating to the sovereignty of the country: a power which they exercised in

* The principality of Neuchatel is divided into a certain number of districts; some of which are denominated *chatellaines*, and others *mayoralties*. The chiefs of the

former are called *chatelains*, and of the latter *mayors*: in every other respect their office and their power is the same.

the year 1707, upon the extinction of the direct line in the person of the dukes of Nemours.

It may be here not unworthy of remark, that the three estates decided the famous cause of the succession in 1707, as a process between the several claimants of the sovereignty. But if (in failure of claimants) a new sovereign was to be chosen, or a new form of government to be established; this would no longer be considered as amenable to a court of judicature: the question would then come before the people assembled by means of their representatives.

THE council of state is invested with the ordinary administration of government, superintends the general police, and is entrusted with the execution of the laws. The members nominated by the sovereign are not limited to any particular number. The prince exercises his authority by means of this council, in which he is always considered as personally presiding: and the power of the president is only to convoke the assembly, to propose the subject of their consideration, to collect the votes, and to decide when the voices are equal. The ordinances of this council are previously communicated to the *ministres* of Neuchâtel, who are to certify, that they contain nothing contrary to law.

THE town of Neuchâtel enjoys very considerable privileges: it has the care of the police within its own district, and is governed by its own magistracy, consisting of a Great and Little Council. I will not trouble you with a detail of the several departments; but I cannot omit mentioning the *ministres*;

ministraux; because the members of that body form the third estate on every act of legislation. The *ministraux* are a kind of committee from the council of the town, and are entrusted with the administration of the police. They consist of the two presidents of that council, four master-burghers drawn from the Little Council, and the *banneret* or guardian of the people's liberties. The six former are changed every two years; the banneret is chosen by the general assembly of the citizens, and continues in office during six years.

THE legislative authority is divided in so complicated a manner, that it would be no easy task to determine precisely where it absolutely resides: perhaps the following account of the persons concerned, and of the forms observed, in enacting and promulgating laws, may somewhat assist in clearing the difficulty.

As soon as the causes are decided by the three estates assembled in the month of May; the four judges, who form the third estate, retire; and their place is supplied by the four *ministraux*. The attorney-general then desires the members of the three estates to take into consideration, whether it be necessary to frame any new laws. When a new ordinance is proposed; a declaration is drawn up, and delivered to the council of state for their deliberation, whether it is contrary to the prerogatives of the prince, or to the rights of the subject: from thence it is communicated to the council of the town, in order to be examined, whether it infringes the privileges of the citizens. If adopted by the
council

council of state, and the council of the town, it is proposed to the prince for his approbation or rejection : in the former case, it is again publicly read before the three estates ; and the governor, or president, declares the approbation of the sovereign. It is then promulgated, or, as the expression is, passed into a law by the three estates. Since the accession of the house of Brandenburg, the people of Vallengin are always consulted upon the framing of a new law. For this purpose the three master-burghers of Vallengin examine, whether it contains any thing inconsistent with the franchises of that district ; in which case they have the power of remonstrating to the governor in council. From this detail it should seem, that the legislative authority resides conjunctively in the prince, the council of state, and the town ; that the people of Vallengin have a kind of negative voice ; and that the three estates propose and promulgate the laws.

EVERY year, at the conclusion of the assembly of the three estates of Neuchatel, those of Vallengin, as constituting the supreme court of judicature for that country, meet at Vallengin, and decide finally all appeals from the inferior courts of justice. The *first* of these three estates is formed by the same four noble and senior counsellors of state, who sit in the first of the three estates of Neuchatel ; the *second* by four mayors of the county of Vallengin ; and the *third* by four members of the court of justice of Vallengin, nominated by the mayor of Vallengin. The governor, or, in his absence, the senior counsellor, presides, as in those of Neuchatel. The three estates of Vallengin have no interference in any act of legislation : the laws which have been framed or amended

amended at Neuchatel, in the manner above-mentioned, being simply remitted to them by the solicitor-general, and publicly read before them. The people of Vallengin assemble every three years in an open plain, in order to elect their three *master-burghers*, who are respectively chosen from the inhabitants of the burgh of Vallengin, of the Val de Ruz, and of the mountains. The function of these master-burghers is to watch over the general interests of the people: they are also in some cases deputed to Neuchatel by the people, whenever they are summoned by the governor and council of state, in relation to any affair which particularly concerns their county.

THE principality of Neuchatel and Vallengin is divided into a certain number of districts, each of which has its criminal court of justice. The great circumspection observed in the judicial proceedings, may sometimes favour the escape of the criminal: but the few instances of atrocious crimes, prove that this humane caution is no encouragement to transgressors; and is a strong presumption of the general good morals which prevail among the people. In a word, personal liberty is almost as tenderly and as securely protected by the laws of this country, as by those of our own invaluable constitution. When the criminal is arrested, he is immediately brought to trial: after which, the sentence is read to him in prison. The next morning he again appears before the judges, assembled in the *open air*; the former proceedings on the trial are read, and the judges once more deliver their opinion. In capital sentences, the governor is instantly acquainted with the circumstances of the crime; and

and if he does not remit or soften the punishment, the sentence is immediately executed. I am concerned to add, that *torture* (though seldom used) is not absolutely abolished.

SUCH are the general outlines of this remarkable constitution, by which the liberties of the people are as well, and perhaps better, secured than even in the democratical cantons; for, although the most despotic prince in Germany is sovereign, his power is exceedingly limited. Among the striking circumstances which characterise this government, must be mentioned the very liberal encouragement given to strangers, who settle in the country. They enjoy every possible privilege of trade and commerce; and in no state are fewer essential distinctions made between strangers and natives. I have already observed to you, the good effects of this enlarged policy on the population of Neuchatel and Vallengin: whereas a narrower and more contracted principle in some of the neighbouring Swiss cantons, has occasioned, and continues to occasion, a very manifest decrease of inhabitants.

LETTER 48.

ROUTE FROM PONTARLIER TO NEUCHATEL—VALLEY OF TRAVERS—ANECDOTES OF ROUSSEAU—ISLE OF ST. PETER, IN THE LAKE OF BIENNE.

Neuchatel, October 1785.

I NOW write to you a second time from Neuchatel, at the interval of nine years since the date of my former letters. On the preceding occasion I went from Granfon to Neuchatel; to-day I came from Pontarlier, a small town in Burgundy, which is the usual route of those who enter Switzerland on this side.

FROM Pontarlier I ascended gently by the side of the Dou, here a small rivulet bubbling in the vale, quitted that stream, and passed under a bold rock, on which stands the castle of Joux forming a picturesque landscape. This castle has a garrison of invalids, and commands the narrow valley leading into Burgundy. Near it the road is divided into two branches; one leads directly to Joigne, and the other to Neuchatel. In about two hours we observed a stone, which separates France from the county of Neuchatel. Soon afterwards we mounted an eminence, looked down upon the beautiful valley of Travers; descended to a narrow pass, which is guarded by a chain fastened to the rock, bearing the date of 1722. History, however, makes mention of this pass, and of a similar chain, at a much earlier period; particularly

cularly in 1476, when Charles the Bold, having ineffectually attempted to force the pass, marched with his army to Joigne, and besieged Granfon, where he was defeated. Having descended to St. Sulpice, I visited the source of the Reus, which issues at the foot of a rock in five copious springs, that form a large body of water, and turn several mills. I was accompanied to this picturesque spot by an inhabitant of Fleurier, a neighbouring village: speaking of the increase of industry in these parts, he informed me, that about thirty years ago Fleurier contained only three watch-makers, whereas at present above a hundred were settled in that place. He added, that notwithstanding the constant influx of strangers, hands were still wanting for the numerous trades, which are carried on with great success in these parts.

I CONTINUED along the high road leading to Neuchatel through the beautiful and romantic valley of Travers, watered by the Reus, abounding in the most fertile pastures, bordered by hills gently rising from the banks of the river, and beautifully sprinkled with wood. I travelled through many neat villages, particularly Bouveresse, Couvet, Travers which gives its name to the whole valley; and Noirague, where I quitted the valley, and entered a narrow pass called *Clusette*. From hence the road traverses an abrupt and woody country along the sides of precipices, the Reus rolling beneath in a deep channel. At the small village of Brot, a pleasing view of the lake of Neuchatel and the adjacent country opened gradually, as I descended, and joined the road leading from Granfon to Neuchatel.

I DID not quit the valley of Travers without paying a visit to Moitier Travers, rendered memorable by the residence of Rousseau, who being, in 1762, driven first from Geneva, afterwards from Yverdun by the government of Berne, found a refuge from civil and theological persecution in this secluded valley, under the protection of Lord Keith, governor of Neuchatel. The dwelling-house of this singular man, is a small wooden building at the further extremity of the village, near the road which leads to Fleurier, and is now occupied by Mr. Martinet, mayor of the valley, a sensible old gentleman, who lived in habits of great intimacy with the philosopher of Geneva. The room chiefly occupied by Rousseau, is a small bed-chamber, which, out of respect to his memory, is left in the same state as when he lived there. In a corner near the window, he had made a kind of recess formed by two book-cases, and a simple deal plank which reached from one book-case to the other, and on which he was accustomed to write. Rousseau admitted company into this room; but into the recess he suffered no one to enter, from a suspicion, that they would overlook his papers when he was writing. He used also to frequent a small open gallery in the front of the house, the extremities whereof he had enclosed with planks, in which were peep-holes for the purpose of reconnoitring those persons who came to visit him, that he might give his orders whether they should be admitted or refused. Here he walked and read.

DURING his residence at Moitier, from 1762 to 1765, by frequently fauntering into the fields and neighbouring mountains, he acquired a taste for the study of botany, which

which he never intermitted, and which he always styled his peculiar delight. During this period of his life, he issued from this secluded corner his *Lettre à l'Archevêque de Paris*, his *Lettres Ecrites de la Montagne*, and some other works; in which he displays those wonderful powers of invention and description, that fascinating yet declamatory eloquence, that glow and animation of style, that fondness for paradoxes, that reverence for the scriptures and yet those perverse doubts of their authenticity, those liberal yet levelling principles of government, that keenness of irony, and that motley mixture of sophistry and argument, which checker and characterise all his writings.

ROUSSEAU, on his arrival at Moitier, appeared in a common dress, but soon afterwards assumed an Armenian habit; either, as he himself alledged, because that mode of clothing was adapted to the disorder with which he was afflicted; or from that affectation of singularity, which seems to have marked his character, in every period of his life. Through Lord Keith's intercession, the king of Prussia offered to Rousseau a pension of £. 100 per annum, which he declined, from his aversion to the least shadow of dependence; preferring to copy music for his livelihood, rather than to accept an obligation even from so great a sovereign; and he used to boast, that he could daily earn a guinea by that occupation. He took his repast usually alone; though he would sometimes, but very rarely, accept an invitation from M. Martinet to dinner or supper; and particularly when Lord Keith passed a week at Moitier Travers for the purpose of visiting him. On these occasions he was remarkably agreeable

agreeable and lively; being naturally of a social disposition, he conversed with great spirit and animation, and yet with as much correctness, as if he was dictating for the press.

ROUSSEAU seems to have trusted entirely to his own judgment; being so impatient of contradiction, that he would never listen to the admonition of his friends, and seldom asked advice with an intention of adopting it. Having finished his celebrated Letter to the Archbishop of Paris, he read it to a person, from whom I received the anecdote, and demanded his advice relative to its publication. The person, though struck with the fire and spirit of the raillery, yet could not avoid representing to him, that his letter, however forcibly written, would never make a convert of the Archbishop; that he would only be entangled in endless controversies, and draw upon himself much obloquy and ill-will. "Your advice, returned Rousseau calmly, is a little too late; "it is already published:" and immediately presented to him a printed copy of the letter, which he had just read to him in manuscript.

HE derived from nature an extreme sensibility which bordered upon weakness; he seems to have wanted one proof of a great mind, that of receiving an obligation, and to have possessed such pride and foreness of temper as rendered it impossible to serve him; for he frequently construed a benefit into an injury. His extreme sensibility was irritated and augmented by a troublesome and painful disorder, which preyed upon his constitution, and at times rendered him unfit for society. And to this complaint, in conjunction with
that

that merciless persecution which he repeatedly endured, should be attributed in a great measure the recluseness of his life, and that suspicious mistrust which occasionally bordered upon madness.

ROUSSEAU had now continued three years at Moitier, greatly delighted with his situation, when an unexpected event induced him to quit a retreat, in which he wished to pass the remainder of his days. This event has been variously related. Some authors assert, that the populace, incited by the minister of the parish, in consequence of the scepticism displayed in his *Lettres Ecrites de la Montagne*, assembled in crowds, broke the windows of his house, forced open the door, and entering his bed-chamber, treated him with such violence that he escaped with difficulty; and, not to become a martyr to his opinions, quitted the country. Others on the contrary maintain, that neither the minister nor the natives were exasperated against him; that his housekeeper, the same person whom he afterwards married, disgusted with the inhabitants, broke the windows, and persuading her master, that he was in danger of being assassinated, so worked upon his apprehensions, that he quitted Moitier the next morning; and as a proof of this assertion, they affirm, that one of the stones found in the apartment was too large to have passed through the broken panes of glass.

THE truth, however, seems to be, that his pride and suspicious temper had rendered him obnoxious to many of the inhabitants; that the scepticism and infidelity of his religious

gious opinions, in his *Lettres Ecrites de la Montagne*, had raised a party against him; that some of the people would occasionally insult him; that the minister of the parish summoned him before the consistory; that he declined appearing; that the council of state at Neuchatel had proposed condemning the above-mentioned publication, and had even applied to the king of Prussia for that purpose. Frederic, in an answer, which does honour to his head and his heart, while he permitted them to use any precautions which might tend to prevent the spreading of sceptical opinions, yet wisely forbade all persecution, and ensured to Rousseau a secure retreat at Moitier under his immediate protection. Before this answer was returned, some of the populace, intoxicated with liquor, threw stones against Rousseau's windows with such violence as to penetrate into the kitchen, and to tear off the plaister from the walls; but it is certain that none of these stones did, or could, enter his bed-chamber, as that apartment was situated on the other side of the house. This violence, however, exaggerated by the real or pretended terrors of his housekeeper, was sufficient to alarm Rousseau; on the next morning he retired from Moitier, and took refuge in the island of St. Peter.

THE island of St. Peter, sometimes called the island of La Motte, and sometimes Rousseau's island, lies towards the southern extremity of the lake of Bienne. To this delightful spot I made an agreeable excursion on the fourth of October 1786, in company with the Rev. M. de Meuron, of Neuchatel, and three English gentlemen. We quitted Neuchatel in the morning; passed through St. Blaise and the district

trict of Landeron, and embarked at Neuville, a small town, which, like Bienne, acknowledges the bishop of Basle for its liege lord, but possesses such rights and immunities as render it an independent republic. It contains about twelve hundred inhabitants. The fine weather, and the clearness of the air, enabled us to enjoy the mild beauties of the view as we sailed to the island. To the south-west we discerned Neuville and its antient castle, and to the south-east we admired the Julimont, an insulated hill adorned with woods of oak, the summit of which is frequently visited by travellers for the beauty of the prospect; and its name has been derived by fanciful antiquaries from Julius Cæsar. At the extremity of a rocky and woody promontory, which stretches from the foot of the Julimont into the lake, stands the castle of Cerlier, and beyond, at some distance, the fertile plains watered by the Thiele. We landed on the south-side of St. Peter's island, and walked through an agreeable meadow skirted with vineyards to a large farm-house, which was formerly a convent*, and is now inhabited by the steward of the general hospital at Berne, to which the island belongs.

THE island is about two miles in circumference, and richly wooded with various shrubs and trees, particularly with large oaks, beech, and Spanish chesnuts. Its surface is gently undulating; the southern shore, covered with herbage, forms a gradual slope to the lake; the remaining borders are steep and rocky: in a few places their summits

* It was secularised at the reformation.

are thinly fringed with shrubs; in others their perpendicular sides are clothed to the water's edge with hanging woods. The views from the different parts of the island are beautiful and diversified; that to the north is the most extensive and pleasing. It commands the lake of Biemme, which is of an oval form: its cultivated borders spotted with villages and castles, with the towns of Nidau and Biemme standing on the farther extremity. Agreeable walks are carried through the woods, and terminate at a circular pavillion placed in the center of the island. During vintage particularly, and on Sunday, which is the usual day of festivity, the island is filled with parties who take refreshments at the farm-house, stray about the woods, or dance in the circular building, and animate these romantic but solitary scenes.

ROUSSEAU occupied an apartment in the farm-house, the only dwelling in the island. He lived with the steward and his family, who are the present inhabitants. The woman informed me, that he paid for his board and lodging forty shillings a month, that he usually rose at six, dined with the family at twelve, and after a slight supper retired to rest at nine. She added, that he was extremely cheerful and agreeable; conversed with the family with the greatest ease and complacency, and conformed to their hours and manner of living; that he amused himself entirely in wandering about the woods, and searching for plants, which he used to explain to them with singular satisfaction. Rousseau mentions his residence in this delightful island with the highest terms of rapture, and his usual proneness to exaggeration.

ration. "I was permitted to remain only two months in this delightful island; but I could have passed there two years, two centuries, all eternity, without suffering a moment's *ennui*, although my whole society consisted of the steward and family, good but plain people. I esteem these two months the most happy period of my life; and so happy, that I could have passed my whole existence without even a momentary wish for another situation *."

If we examine in what this *extreme* happiness consisted; he himself informs us, that his principal occupation was in *doing nothing*. He did not even unpack his books, and could scarcely prevail on himself to read, much less to answer any letters. He assisted the steward and his servants at work in the vineyards and fields; fauntered about the woods, and gave himself up entirely to botany. He proposed to write a *Flora Petriuscularis*, or a description of the plants in the island; adding on this head, that as a German had published a book on the kernel of a lemon, in the same manner he would compose a treatise on each species of grass, moss, and lichen; and that he would not leave the most minute particle of vegetation undescribed. He made occasional excursions on the lake, sometimes coasting the shady banks of the island; at other times suffering the bark to float without direction into the middle of the lake: then, to use his own expressions, "he would lie down in the boat, look up to the heavens, and continue in that posture for several hours, enjoying a thousand uncon-

* See Promenade V.

nected and confused, but delicious reveries." He frequently rowed to a small sandy island, which he describes as a most beautiful spot. It was one of his great amusements to people this little island with rabbits; and as he was conveying, with *great pomp*, the steward's family to be present at the foundation of this little colony, he describes himself as *equally elated with the pilot of the Argonautic expedition*.

FROM these simple avocations and *every day* occurrences, which Rousseau relates with that enthusiasm and those sentiments peculiar to himself, he draws the following sublime morality. "I have remarked, during the vicissitudes of a long life, that the most delightful enjoyments and most rapturous pleasures, are not, upon recollection, those with which I am most affected. Such fleeting moments of passion and delirium, however rapturous, are, from their very nature, but thinly scattered in the path of life. They are too rare and rapid to constitute a fixed state; and the happiness which my heart regrets, is not composed of fugitive instants, but consists in a simple and permanent state, without rapture, the duration of which increases the charm, till it finds supreme felicity."

THIS state he describes himself as possessing during his short continuance in the island of Bienne; a longer residence would probably have dissolved the charm, which was raised by his own heated imagination. That restlessness of temper, which is usually the attendant of great genius, and which was his inseparable companion, would have probably returned, and embittered the delightful calm which he describes

scribes with such rapture and exstasy. But he had not time to become disgusted with his situation: for the same intolerant spirit which had hitherto pursued him, followed him even to this sequestered island; and he had scarcely passed two months, before he received an order from the government of Berne to depart from their territories. Rousseau was so shocked at this unexpected command, that he petitioned to be imprisoned for life, only requesting the use of a few books, and that he might be occasionally permitted to walk in the open air. Soon after this extraordinary request, which shews the extreme agitation of his mind, and which cannot but interest every man of feeling, he reluctantly quitted the island. It does not fall within the compass of a letter to dwell upon this singular man through the subsequent events of his life, or even accompany him to England, where, notwithstanding the most distinguished reception, the same perverseness of disposition, and the same excessive delicacy rendered him no less unhappy, than when he was under the pressure of real calamities, and exposed to reiterated persecutions.

I am, &c.

LETTER

L E T T E R 49.

ENVIRONS OF MORAT—MOUNT VUILLY.

IN our way to Morat and Avenches we crossed the river Thiele, which issues from the lake of Neuchatel, discharges itself into that of Bienne, and separates the principality of Neuchatel from the canton of Berne.

MORAT is a bailliage belonging to Berne and Friburgh : the reformation was introduced in 1530, by the majority of voices, in presence of deputies from Berne and Friburgh. The free spirit of the Swiss governments is in no instance more remarkably apparent, than by the mode which they observed in embracing, or rejecting, the reformation ; as, in many other towns beside Morat, the question was put to the vote ; and the minority generally submitted, with perfect acquiescence, to the decision of the greater number, Morat stands pleasantly upon the edge of a small lake, about six miles long, and two broad ; in the midst of a well-cultivated country. The lakes of Morat and Neuchatel are parallel to each other, and separated only by a ridge of hills : the former is the most elevated ; for, it discharges itself by means of the river Broye, into the latter. According to Mr. de Luc, the lake of Morat is fifteen French feet above the level of that of Neuchatel. Both these lakes, as well as that of Bienne, formerly extended much farther than their present

present limits: and, from the position of the country, appear to have been once united.

MR. PENNANT informs me, that “the vast fish called the *silurus glanis*, or the *saluth*, which frequents the lakes of Morat and Neuchatel, has not been caught here in the memory of man. It is well described, and finely engraven, in Doctor Bloch’s History of Fishes, vol. i. 194. tab. 34. In the time of Gefner two were taken, one of which was eight feet long; but they are sometimes so large as to weigh six hundred pounds. It is an eel-shaped fish, very smooth, round and thick, and has a great head. The mouth is furnished with four short, and two very long, whiskers. It is very inactive and slow in its motions, and loves the deep and muddy parts of the lakes. They are found in many of the great fresh waters of Europe, and abundantly in the Volga.”

ON my subsequent expeditions into these parts, I examined with greater attention the environs of Morat, during several days, which I passed most agreeably at Coujouvaux, a seat belonging to the count of Diesbach, and at Grens with M. de Garville, a French gentleman, who is so much attached to the beauties of this delightful country, that he has built a villa in a pleasing situation near the banks of the lake of Morat, where he comes every year from Paris to pass the summer. By these families I was received without any other introduction, than as being the author of the Letters on Switzerland, and with that frankness and cordiality so flattering

flattering to a stranger. I found the environs of Morat, though not so wild and romantic as many other parts of Switzerland, yet extremely desirable for a constant residence.

I MADE several excursions across the lake, to an insulated ridge between the lakes of Neuchatel and Morat, and enjoyed many delightful points of view. Of these various prospects, the most remarkable is from the summit of Mount Vuilly, where I seated myself on the edge of an abrupt precipice. From thence I looked down upon the lakes of Bienne, Morat, and Neuchatel; observed the Broye entering the lake of Morat, issuing from thence and winding through a marshy plain into the lake of Neuchatel; the Thiele flowing from thence, and hastening to fall into the lake of Bienne; the fertile and variegated countries encircling those bodies of water; and the grounds rising in regular gradations from plains to alps. But what renders this charming spot more particularly striking is, that it is perhaps the only central point from which the eye can at once comprehend the vast amphitheatre formed, on one side, by the Jura stretching from the environs of Geneva as far as Basle, and, on the other, by that stupendous chain of snowy alps, which extends from the frontiers of Italy to the confines of Germany, and is lost at each extremity in the immense horizon.

IMPRESSED with this sublime view, I cast my eyes downwards over that dead and extensive morass through which the

the

the Broye serpentine; and cried out in the language of poetry, which knows how to animate the dullest objects :

Quittons les bois et les montagnes

*Je vois couler la Broye * à travers les roseaux.*

Son onde partagée en differens canaux

S'egare avec plaisir dans de vertes campagnes,

Et forme dans la plaine un labyrinthe d'eaux.

Riviere tranquille et chérie

Que j'aime à suivre tes détours !

Ton eau silencieuse en son paisible cours,

Presente à mon esprit l'image de la vie,

Elle semble immobile, et s'écoule toujours.

* From a poem, entitled "*La vue d'Anet.*" I have followed the example of M. Sinner, in his *Voy. Hist. et Pol. de la Suisse*, who substitutes the Broye for the Thiele, to which the lines in the original are applied.

LETTER 50.

BATTLE OF MORAT—WAR BETWEEN THE SWISS
AND CHARLES THE BOLD, DUKE OF BURGUNDY—
ITS CONSEQUENCES.

MORAT is celebrated for the obstinate siege it sustained against Charles the Bold, duke of Burgundy, which was followed by the battle of Morat, fought on the 22d of June 1476. In this famous engagement the duke was routed, and his whole army almost entirely destroyed, by the confederate troops of Switzerland. Not far from the town, and adjoining to the high road, a monument of this victory still remains: it is a square building, filled with the bones of the Burgundian soldiers, who were slain at the siege and in the battle. To judge from the quantity of these bones, the number of the slaughtered must have been considerable. Among several inscriptions in the Latin and German languages, relative to that memorable victory, I transcribed the following on account of its conciseness:

Deo Opt: Max:
Caroli Inclyti et Fortissimi
Burgundiæ Ducis Exercitus
Muratum obsidens ab Helvetiis
Cæsus hoc sui Monumentum reliquit.
Ann: 1476.

THIS

THIS war, which Charles the Bold carried on against the Swifs with a temerity peculiar to himself, forms a remarkable æra in the history of this country; and was attended with some very extraordinary circumstances. From the time of the famous revolution in 1308, which gave rise to the Helvetic confederacy, to the end of the following century, the Swifs republics deprived the House of Austria of all its territories situated in Switzerland; and continued in possession, notwithstanding the various attempts of the different dukes to recover their lost domains. But of all the princes of that House, Sigismond the simple, archduke of Austria of the branch of Tyrol, was more particularly engaged in hostilities with the Swifs cantons, and their allies: for, his hereditary dominions in Suabia and Alsace bordering upon Switzerland, induced him to enter more frequently into these disputes, than the other branch, which was in possession of the imperial throne.

IN the course of these hostilities, Sigismond was compelled to cede a considerable part of his territories to the Swifs republics; particularly the rich country of Thurgau to the seven cantons, which at that period composed the Helvetic league*. Inflamed by these repeated losses, and the humiliating conditions of peace he was constrained to accept in 1468, he endeavoured to engage some of the neighbouring powers in a confederacy against the Swifs cantons. Having first ineffectually applied to Louis the Eleventh king of

* Berne obtained the co-regency of Thurgau at the peace of Arau, 1712.

France, he at length addressed himself to Charles the Bold, duke of Burgundy.

CHARLES having succeeded to the possession of Franche Comté, Burgundy, Artois, and Flanders, together with the greatest part of the United Provinces; possessed as ample revenues, and as extensive territories, as the most potent sovereign of his time. Magnificent, impetuous, and enterprising, he neglected no opportunity of aggrandising his power, and set no bounds to the projects of his restless ambition. He had formed the plan of erecting Burgundy into a monarchy; and had already in imagination appropriated to himself Lorraine and part of Switzerland; which he proposed to annex by conquest to his hereditary dominions.

A PRINCE of such a character being naturally well disposed to listen to any overtures, or to undertake any war, that might advance his ambitious schemes, received with eagerness the propositions of Sigismond; he flattered that credulous prince with the hopes of receiving in marriage his daughter Mary, heiress of his extensive dominions; and prevailed upon him, by the loan of eighty thousand florins, to surrender Sundgau, Alsace, Brisgau, and the four Forest-towns; promising, upon the repayment of that sum, to restore the provinces. By this alliance, Sigismond acquired a sum of money to assist him in his preparations against the Swiss; protected, as he thought, his hereditary dominions from their enterprises; and secured a powerful ally against the antient enemies of his family. The reverse, however,
proved

proved to be the event: for, by a strange fatality, this league, which was intended to cement the union of the two princes, served only to divide them; and occasioned the first perpetual alliance between the Swiss cantons and a prince of the House of Austria.

CHARLES, upon the conclusion of this treaty, informed the cantons, that he had taken Sigismond under his protection, and would defend him to the utmost of his power. Meanwhile, the bailifs, whom he placed over his newly acquired territories in Alsace, oppressed the people; laid embargoes upon the commerce of Mulhausen, a confederate of the cantons; and withheld the rents of the estates belonging to the Swiss in Sundgau and Alsace. These grievances being laid before Charles in an embassy, which Berne dispatched to his court in the name of the confederate cantons, the duke received it with haughtiness; and after compelling the deputies to kneel while they delivered their remonstrance, dismissed them without an answer. This disdainful and ignominious treatment was ill brooked by a free people, unaccustomed to crouch before the insolence of power; and the warmth of their just indignation was still more inflamed by the artful policy of Louis the Eleventh, who, jealous of the duke of Burgundy's power, entered into a defensive alliance with the Swiss republics, in order to counteract the designs of that ambitious prince.

BUT Louis still further strengthened the Swiss, by effecting a reconciliation between them and Sigismond. The latter had no sooner surrendered to Charles Sundgau, Alsace, and
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the other dominions, than he became sensible of his error. The duke of Burgundy not only oppressed his new subjects, but seemed determined, even should the eighty thousand florins be repaid, to keep possession of these conditional territories, and did not appear inclined to fulfil the promise of bestowing his daughter upon the archduke. From these considerations, Sigismund, induced through the mediation of Louis, to throw himself under the protection of the Swiss, concluded the famous treaty, which was confirmed at Lucerne in 1474, and is called the *hereditary union*; an appellation appropriated to the treaties between the Swiss and the House of Austria. Sigismund renounced all right to the provinces which the Swiss had conquered from the House of Austria: the two contracting parties formed a defensive alliance; and engaged to guarantee reciprocally each other's territories. Thus the Swiss, after having deprived Sigismund of all his possessions in their country, engaged to support his title to those very provinces, which he had mortgaged in order to strengthen his arms against themselves; and Sigismund accepted a guarantee from the most inveterate enemies of his family. This treaty, which entirely changed the policy of the Swiss republics, was solely contrived by the artful intrigues of Louis the Eleventh: the jealousy of that designing monarch turned into another channel the vast preparations of the duke of Burgundy; preparations which would probably have been attended with more success, had they been directed against France.

CHARLES too late perceiving the imprudence of his conduct towards the Swiss republics, in vain exerted all his efforts

efforts to engage them in a neutrality. They rejected his proposals of reconciliation with firmness, prepared, with their usual vigour, for a war, which now appeared inevitable, and even advanced the eighty thousand florins to Sigismund, who demanded the restitution of his lands, which the duke of Burgundy evaded under various pretexts. Charles having concluded a separate peace with Louis, turned his whole force against the Swiss, entered their country with an army of sixty-thousand men; and, laying siege to Granfon, carried it by assault. But his success ended there: for, at the subsequent battles of Granfon and Morat, he was totally defeated, and his attempts upon Switzerland entirely frustrated*. Nevertheless, his restless and ambitious spirit still unsubdued, impelled him to attack the duke of Lorraine. But that prince, having engaged in his pay a body of eight

* Charles entered Switzerland confident of subduing that country. The effect which this unexpected and humiliating disappointment had upon his spirits and constitution, is related by Philip de Comines, with his usual minuteness, in his Memoirs addressed to Angelo Cattho, archbishop of Vienne in Dauphiné. His account is curious, and will give some idea of the violent and impetuous character of Charles:

“ His concern and distraction for his first defeat at Granfon was so great, and made such deep impression on his spirits, that it threw him into a violent and dangerous fit of sickness: for, whereas before, his choler, and natural heat was so great, that he drank no wine, only in the morning he took a little tisane, sweetened with conserve of roses, to refresh himself: this

“ sudden melancholy had so altered his constitution, he was now forced to drink the strongest wine that could be got, without any water. And, in order to draw the blood from his heart, some burning tow was put into the cupping glasses, and applied to his side. But this, my lord of Vienne, you know better than I; for, your lordship attended on him during the whole course of his illness, and spared no pains that might contribute to his recovery: and it was by your persuasion that the duke was prevailed upon to cut his beard, which was of a prodigious length. In my opinion his understanding was never so perfect, nor his senses so sedate and composed, after this fit of sickness, as before.”

Uvedale's Trans. Vol. I. p. 423.

thousand

thousand Swifs, obtained a complete victory, near Nancy, over Charles, who was flain in the engagement *.

His death terminated this bloody war; in which the Swifs gave the moft diftinguifhing proofs of invincible valour, and fpread the fame of their military virtues throughout all Europe, but from which they obtained no folid advantage †. In fact, the principal and almoft fole benefit accrued to Louis the Eleventh; as, by the death of Charles, he not only was releafed from a dangerous and enterprifing rival, but alfo annexed the rich provinces of Burgundy and Artois to the crown of France. But, although the immediate advantages which the Swifs derived from the death of Charles, were unimportant; yet the confequences operated very confiderably on their future politics. Mary of Burgundy, the only furviving child and heirefs of Charles, mar-

* The death of Charles at the battle of Nancy, was attended with fome very extraordinary circumftances; for the particulars of which, fee the curious account, extracted from Philip de Comines, and the *Chronique Scandaleufe* of John de Troyes, in Wraxal's interefting *Memoirs of the Kings of France of the Houfe of Valois*.

† “ And what,” fays Comines, “ was the occafion of this war? It was begun on account of a waggon of fheep-fkins, which the lord of Romont took from a Swifs, who was paffing through his territories. If God had not abandoned the duke, it is not probable, that he would have put himfelf into fo much danger for

“ fo trifling a circumftance; confidering the offers that were made to him; againft what fort of people he was engaged; and from whence neither profit nor glory could accrue to him. For, the Swifs were not in fuch reputè, as they are in at prefent, and nothing could be poorer: infomuch that one of their ambaffadors, as he was endeavouring to prevent the duke from engaging in that war, remonftrated; that he could gain nothing by attacking them: for their country was fo barren, that the fpuers of his troops and the bits of their horfes were worth more, than could be furnifhed by all the Swifs territories, in cafe they were conquered.”

ried

ried the archduke Maximilian, eldest son of the emperor Frederic the Third, and afterwards emperor himself. By this marriage, the House of Austria acquired possession of the Netherlands; and having frequent disputes with France, the alliance of the Swiss was strenuously courted by both parties. Thus this country, being secured from all invasions, acceded as occasion offered to the two rival powers; and assisted each party by turns, as the intrigues, or rather as the subsidies, of the one or the other prevailed.

THESE intrigues gave rise to different alliances, contracted with the House of Austria, the kings of France, the pope, and the dukes of Savoy and Milan.—But, not to enter more minutely into their history, I shall only observe in general, that hitherto the Swiss had acted with great disinterestedness in all their treaties, and had never taken the field but either with a view to secure their liberties, or to drive their enemies from Switzerland. It was about the period of the Burgundian war, that the subsidies which they obtained from Louis the Eleventh, taught them the disgraceful arts of mercenary politics; as the rich plunder which they took from the duke of Burgundy gave, in some measure, the first taint to their original simplicity of manners; till at length, *Swiss venality* has become a proverbial expression.

I am, &c.

LETTER 51.

ANTIQUITIES OF AVENCHES.

FEW antient towns have occasioned more controversy among antiquarians, or given rise to such a variety of conjectures concerning its origin and importance, as Avenches, the principal burgh of a bailliage in the Pays de Vaud. Some contend that it was the capital of all Helvetia; because Tacitus calls it *Aventicum gentis caput*: while others have endeavoured to prove, that by this expression the historian intended only to denote the capital town of its particular district. Agreeably to some accounts, the city was built, and a Roman colony founded, by Vespasian: with more probability, according to others, it was only repaired and beautified by that emperor, after it had been laid waste, and almost ruined, by Vitellius.

WITHOUT entering into dry and uninteresting discussions, I shall simply relate, that it was formerly a very considerable town, and under the dominion of the Romans; as appears not only from several milestones, found in many parts of the Pays de Vaud, most of which are numbered from *Aventicum*, as the principal place of reference; but more particularly from the present ruins. I shall slightly mention a few of these ruins, merely to shew you, that the inhabitants do not boast of their antiquity without sufficient evidence. We traced the site of the antient walls, which appear

pear to have enclosed a space near five miles in circumference. The present town occupies but a very inconsiderable part of this ground; the remainder is covered with corn-fields and meadows. One of the antient towers still exists: it is a semicircular building, with the convex side turned towards the town.

WE next examined a coarse mosaic pavement, discovered some years ago in ploughing a field. Being now enclosed by a barn, which is let to some peasants, the ignorant occupiers are taking the most effectual method to destroy it, by employing it as a drying-house for tobacco, and by suffering strangers to take away specimens. Even the government of Berne was so insensible of its value, that they permitted the count of Caylus to remove a pannel, containing the figures of two Bacchanalians. This mosaic was the floor of an antient bath, and is about sixty feet in length and forty in breadth: the general form is perfect; and although several parts are broken and lost, yet from the present remains the configuration of the whole may be easily traced.

THE pavement consists of three compartments: those at each extremity are regularly divided into fifteen octagons, eight small squares, and sixteen small triangles. Five of these octagons in each compartment, represented human figures in various attitudes, but chiefly Bacchanalian men and women: the remaining octagons were composed of three different patterns. The vacant parts between the octagons are filled with the small squares; and towards the outward border, with the small triangles. The middle compartment is divided into oblong pannels; in the largest of which

is an octagon bath of white marble, of about six feet in diameter, and a foot and a half deep: the sides of the bath are ornamented with dolphins. Of these three compartments, one is almost perfect; the others are very much defaced. Each of the pannels is encircled with several borders prettily diversified; and a general border encloses the whole. Schmidt, in his *Recueil d'Antiquités de la Suisse*, ingeniously conjectures, from a *glory* which furrounds a head of Bacchus in this mosaïc, that it was wrought during some part of the intervening age between Vespasian and Marcus Aurelius; because that mark of divinity is not usual upon any monuments of Roman antiquity prior to that period. He adds, that the same kind of *glory* is observed upon the head of Trajan in an antient painting at Rome; upon that of Antoninus Pius on a medal; and on the arch of Constantine*. He strengthens this conjecture, by further remarking, that the head-dress of a Bacchanalian woman represented in this mosaïc, resembles the head-dress on the medals of the empresses Plotina and Sabina†.

FROM thence we were conducted to the ruins of an antient amphitheatre, within the walls of the bailif's garden. The general form and size of this building are tolerably perfect, as also parts of the brick-walls which enclosed it. The diameter of the arena was, as well as we could judge by pa-

* The arch of Constantine at Rome has been supposed to have represented the head of Constantine.

being partly formed from the Forum of Trajan, the architect improperly transferred the figures. This circumstance accounts for the *glory* observed round the head of Trajan, on the arch of Constantine, which

† The curious reader will find in the *Recueil*, cited in the text, a very accurate description and engraving of this mosaïc.

cing it, about eighty yards; which must necessarily have been an uncertain estimate: as a former bailif brought in a considerable quantity of earth, in order to plant fruit-trees; conceiving, I suppose, that good fruit was of more value, than to be able to determine the precise extent of an antient amphitheatre. Under a tower, partly built of Roman materials, is a cell in which the animals were probably let loose upon the arena. On the outside are still to be seen the remains of five dens: and the walls are adorned with several pieces of rude sculpture considerably defaced,

Not far from these ruins stands a large column of white marble, about fifty feet in height, composed of large masses, nicely joined together without cement; and near it lies a considerable fragment of defaced sculpture, which seems to have once formed part of the portal belonging to a magnificent temple. At a small distance from this column, in the high road, we observed a cornice of white marble, sculptured with urns and griffins. As we walked through the town, we remarked several other masses of cornice, ornamented with sea-horses and urns; and some marble columns of beautiful proportions.

ABOUT a mile from Avenches, near the village of Coppet, on the other side of a little stream, which separates the canton of Friburgh from that of Berne, are the remains of a small aqueduct. They were discovered about fifteen years ago, by the accidental falling of a sand-hill which covered the aqueduct. The outside is formed of stones and mortar, and the inside of red Roman cement; the vault of
the

the arch may be about two feet and a half high, and one and a half broad. This aqueduct has been traced to the east-side of the town, and also to near the marble column before-mentioned. We were also informed that it extends to the tower of Gausa, between Vevay and Laufanne: and that, between Villarfel and Marnau, about four leagues from Coppet, an arch of nearly the same dimensions is excavated in the solid rock. But whether these several parts actually communicated with each other, or indeed whether they really exist, are facts which, (having only viewed those remains that are visible near this town) I must be contented to rest on the credit of my informers.

P O S T S C R I P T.

WHEN I visited the ruins of Avenches in October 1786, I had much satisfaction in finding, that the bailif, Mr. Tcharner, paid great attention to these remains, and particularly to the mosaic. I could not avoid remarking to the bailif, who politely favoured us with his company; that every lover of antiquity must regret, his predecessors had not shewn the same taste; as the ruins of Avenches would have been a greater object of curiosity. Several excavations had been lately made, at first by Lord Northampton, who has a house in the neighbourhood, and continued at the expence of Berne. A coarse mosaic pavement, a few fragments of walls rudely painted, and some trifling remains of antient baths, are the only vestiges of antiquity hitherto discovered.

I am, &c.

LETTER

LETTER 52.

TOWN AND CANTON OF FRIBURGH—POPULATION
—GOVERNMENT—SECRET CHAMBER.

FTRIBURGH was built in 1179, by Berchtold the Fourth, duke of Zæringen, who endowed it with considerable privileges. Upon the extinction of the male line of the house of Zæringen, in 1218*, Ulric of Kyburgh obtained the sovereignty, in right of his wife Anne, sister of the last duke of Berchtold the Fifth. It came by marriage into the possession of Eberhard count of Habsburgh-Lauffenburgh; who sold it to his cousin Rhodolph of Habsburgh, afterwards emperor. During this period, a continual rivalry subsisting between Berne and Friburgh, they were frequently engaged in mutual hostilities: at length all differences were composed; and the two cities, in 1403, entered into a perpetual alliance.

FRIBURGH continued under the dominion of the house of Austria, and was concerned in all the quarrels in which that

* The house of Zæringen was descended from the antient counts of Alsace, by Berchtold count of Brisgau. His grandson, Berchtold the Second, built the castle of Zæringen, situated near a village of the same name, not far from the present town of Friburgh, capital of the Brisgau. Upon the demise of Berchtold the Fifth, the last duke, without male issue, his territories were divided between his collateral heirs, the dukes

of Teck, and his two sisters Agnes and Anne. Agnes married Egeno, count of Urach; by which marriage he obtained possession of Friburgh in the Brisgau: his posterity were called counts of Friburgh. Anne married Ulric, count of Kyburgh; their daughter Hedwige, was wife of Albert count of Habsburgh, and mother of the emperor Rhodolph the First.

family

family was engaged with the Swiss republics, until the middle of the fifteenth century; when, by a singular revolution, it renounced all allegiance to the archduke Albert, and put itself under the protection of the duke of Savoy. From this æra it occasionally assisted the cantons against the house of Austria; and in the war between the Swiss and Charles the Bold, its troops had a share in the victories of Granfon and Morat. Soon after the battle of Morat, it became a free and independent republic; and, in 1481, was admitted a member of the Helvetic confederacy.

THE situation of the town, though not one of the most beautiful, is certainly one of the most picturesque and wild in Switzerland. It stands partly in a small plain, partly on bold acclivities, on a ridge of rugged rocks, half encircled by the river Sane; and is so entirely concealed by the circumjacent hills, that the traveller scarcely catches the smallest glimpse, until he bursts upon a view of the whole town from the overhanging eminence. The fortifications, which consist of high stone walls and towers, enclose a circumference of about four miles; within which space the eye comprehends a singular mixture of houses, rocks, thickets, and meadows, varying instantly from wild to agreeable, from the bustle of a town to the solitude of the deepest retirement. The Sane winds in such a serpentine manner as to form in its course, within the space of two miles, five obtuse angles, between which the intervening parts of the current are parallel to each other.

ON all sides the descent to the town is extremely steep: in one place the streets even pass over the roofs of the houses.

Many

Many of the edifices are raised in regular gradation like the seats of an amphitheatre: many overhang the edge of a precipice in such a manner, that on looking down, a weak head would be apt to turn giddy; and an unfortunate lover, repulsed in his suit, might instantly put an end to his pains, by taking a leap from the parlour window, without the trouble of a journey to Leucate, or to the rocks of Meillerie. But the most extraordinary point of view is from the Pont-neuf. To the north-west, part of the town stands boldly on the sides and the piked back of an abrupt ridge; and from east to west a semicircle of high perpendicular rocks is seen, whose base is washed and undermined by the winding Sane, and whose tops and sides are thinly scattered with shrubs and underwood. On the highest point of the rocks, and on the very edge of the precipice, appears, half-hanging in the air, the gate of the town called Bourgillon: a stranger standing on the bridge would compare it to Laputa, or the Flying Island in Gulliver's Travels, and would not conceive it to be accessible but by means of a cord and pulleys. In the midst of the river I observed a large fragment of stone, which a few years ago fell from the rocky heights, was carried under one of the arches, and in conjunction with other fragments stopping the current, raised it more than ten feet above its usual level, threatening the lower parts of the town with a sudden inundation.

A TRAVELLER fond of wild and romantic scenery will not fail to visit the Moulin de la Motte, and the valley of Goteron. The Moulin de la Motte is a miller's dwelling, hollowed in the midst of an impending rock; near it issues

a small torrent, which turning the mill, falls within a few paces into the Sane. This singular dwelling seems so far removed from "*the busy hum of men*," as to be rather situated in a remote solitude, than within the walls of a fortified town. Near it there is an ascent of four hundred steps to the Place des Fontaines, in the upper part of the town.

THE valley of Goteron, which lies on the north-west of the town near the bridge leading to Berne, takes its name from the Goteron, a small rivulet that runs through it, and turns several mills. This valley, extremely narrow and above two miles in length, is bounded on each side by high and overhanging rocks of sand-stone. M. Vernet, the celebrated landscape painter, is said to have studied these rocks with great attention; and frequently to have declared, that, excepting those of Tivoli, he never saw any rocks whose varying tints had a more pleasing and harmonious effect. The valley contains several mills; an iron foundery, where the ore brought from Franche Comté is forged; and a manufacture of printed linen and cotton, lately established by some merchants of Neuchatel, under the protection and encouragement of government.

THE houses of Friburgh, constructed with a grey sand-stone drawn from a neighbouring quarry, are neat and well-built; but the whole town has a dull and inanimate appearance. Among the few objects worthy of particular notice in the town, are, the cathedral, an elegant Gothic edifice, erected in the latter end of the 14th century, and remarkable
for

for the height and solidity of the tower; the town-house, an antient building, which formerly composed part of the palace belonging to the dukes of Zæringen; and also a lime-tree, in the middle of the principal square. Tradition reports, that this tree was instantly planted by one of the soldiers, the 22d of June 1477, on his return from the battle of Morat: an emblem of Swiss liberty, which took deep root on the memorable defeat of Charles the Bold; and thus remaining firm against the conflicts of time, has continued to spread and flourish, to the admiration and example of future ages. The society of Friburgh is extremely agreeable; the gentry are frank and hospitable, and blend French politeness with great simplicity of manners. Dinner is usually served at twelve; and supper seldom later than eight. I never experienced a more cordial reception in any town of Switzerland.

THE bishop of Laufanne, called here the bishop of Friburgh, resides in this city. He is appointed by the pope, usually at the recommendation of the French court; and his revenues, including a small pension from France, and from the abbey of Hauterive, of which he was abbot, amount to about £.400 *per ann.* His diocese extends over the whole canton, and part of that of Soleure. In all his acts and deeds he signs himself Bishop and Count of Laufanne, and Prince of the German empire. The present bishop, Bernhard of Lenzburgh, is a man of letters, and an honour to his profession: he is employed in preparing for the public a biography of the illustrious and learned men born in the canton of

Friburgh, who have distinguished themselves, either in the civil, military, or literary line.

THIS canton is entirely catholic. Its population in 1785 may be estimated from the following table:

The town contained	—	—	5,011
The environs	—	—	15,500
The remainder of the canton		—	33,078
Absentees	—	—	4,000
			———
Number of inhabitants		—	57,589

THE sovereign power resides in the Great Council of Two Hundred; comprizing the two Advoyers, the Chancellor, the Grand Sautier, the Senate, or Little Council of Twenty-four, the Sixty, from which body are chosen the bannerets and principal magistrates, and the remaining hundred and twelve members, who are simply denominated Burghers.

THE only persons capable of being elected members of this sovereign council, and of course enjoying any share in the government, are the *secret* burghers, or a certain number of families divided into four *bannieres*, or tribes of the town: they are called *secret* burghers, in order to distinguish them from the other citizens, partly inhabiting the town, and partly the twenty-four parishes in the environs. The latter enjoy the right of appointing the advoyers, from certain candidates proposed by the sixty, and of annually confirming

firming the said magistrates. Hence many authors have called this government aristo-democratical, but erroneously: for, as the power of the people is confined to the act of choosing and confirming the two advoyers; and as the supreme authority absolutely resides in the council of two hundred, necessarily supplied by a limited number of patrician families, the government is, in the strictest sense, a mere aristocracy.

INSTEAD of troubling you with an uninteresting detail of those points in which the government of Friburgh resembles that of the other aristocratical cantons, I shall confine myself to those peculiar circumstances by which it is discriminated from them. This difference may be principally said to consist in three articles: 1. The *blind ballot*, or mode by which several important offices are supplied, and particularly by which the members of the senate and the sixty are chosen. This mode of election was instituted in order to prevent venality; and is too singular not to be distinctly explained. The names of the candidates are placed privately in a box, containing as many partitions as there are persons who solicit the charge. Into each of these partitions the electors throw in their suffrages as chance directs, without knowing to whom they may happen to give their votes; and the candidate who has the most of these casual ballots is elected. 2. The clause which disables certain noble families from bearing the office of banneret, or from being chosen members of the *secret chamber*. These families are sixteen in number: some were acknowledged noble, even as early as the foundation of the republic; others successively obtained

tained titles of counts and barons from the foreign princes to whom they were attached, and in whose armies they had served. 3. But the most remarkable circumstance which discriminates the constitution of Friburgh from that of the other aristocratical cantons, is a committee distinguished by the name of the *Secret Chamber*, which, though not any public or responsible part of administration, is yet the concealed spring that puts the wheels of government in motion. As the prerogatives and operation of this *secret chamber* are in general but little known, and still less understood; I flatter myself that it will not be uninteresting to lay before you a concise account of its origin and constitution.

THE *secret chamber*, forming a part of the council of sixty, is composed of the four bannerets, who are reciprocally chosen by the council of two hundred from the four tribes; and of twenty-four members, who are appointed by a majority of their own body: the former remain in office four years; the latter continue for life. The *secret chamber* assembles ordinarily four times in the year, or oftener if occasion requires: and is convoked by a banneret. The two principal meetings of this body are between the Sunday before St. John's day and the twenty-fourth of June; and usually on the anniversary of the battle of Morat, for the purpose of appointing the vacant places in the council of two hundred; and on Tuesday in Whitfun-week, when they supply the vacancies in their own body. Its origin is thus traced in the records of the republic. From 1347 to 1387, the three bannerets nominated twenty persons from each of
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the three tribes into which it was then divided; and these sixty assembled on the Sunday before St. John's day, to establish the Little Council and elect the treasurer; from hence is derived the origin of the sixty, and of the assembly which meets on the Sunday now called *Secret Sunday*. It consists of the whole council of two hundred, excepting the advoyers and senate, and is presided by the chancellor, the four bannerets, and the members of the *secret chamber*, who take the places of the senators. This assembly reviews, confirms, or censures, if necessary, the senators, the bannerets, and the sixty; the members of each tribe retire, while their conduct is examined and reviewed by the remainder. The same assembly fills up also the vacant places in the senate, and in the sixty, by blind ballot.

IN 1387, the nomination of the sixty was transferred from the bannerets to the assembly which met on the *Secret Sunday*: and that assembly was also empowered to appoint the Little Council, the treasurer, the sixty, and the remaining members of the two hundred. By a charter of the same year, four coadjutors, drawn from the sixty, were given to each banneret: and it appears that these coadjutors were chosen, in the same manner as the bannerets, separately by each tribe: and this may probably be considered as the origin of the *secret chamber*. A charter of the year 1392, confirms the *Secret Sunday* in the right of nominating the sixty, and confers on the bannerets that of choosing the *prud-hommes*, who accompanied them when they convoked the people on St. John's day; and it is probable that the bannerets also appointed their coadjutors. This nomination
took

took place, as at present, on the Tuesday in Whitsun-week. The town being at that period only divided into three tribes, the coadjutors were limited to twelve; and when a fourth tribe was added, their number was augmented to sixteen. A charter dated 1404 confirms, in many instances, these arrangements; but does not grant to the *Secret Sunday* the nomination of the two hundred: a right at that time enjoyed by the bannerets, who shared it with their coadjutors, or the *secrets*; and thus is probably derived the power of appointing the members of the two hundred, since constantly exercised by the bannerets and *secrets*. The same charter orders the bannerets to assemble on Whit-Tuesday, in conjunction with the sixty of the preceding year, for the purpose of choosing four members of the sixty from each tribe, who should accompany the bannerets when they convoked the assembly of burghers and inhabitants on St. John's day; and two additional members for convening the assembly of *Secret Sunday*. Here then are six persons from each tribe employed in these convocations, or in all twenty-four persons, the number of members who now form the *secret chamber*. The same charter also enjoins the bannerets and *secrets* to collect the votes in all elections and deliberations; an office which they continue to exercise to this day.

As early as the beginning of the 15th century, the bannerets and *secrets* assembled at Christmas and Easter, for the purpose of preparing and digesting such motions as were to be laid before the Council of two hundred, which adopted, modified, or rejected them. As the bannerets probably continued

tinued to employ the same coadjutors in convoking the assemblies on St. John's day, and on *Secret Sunday*, the *secret chamber*, composed of these twenty-four coadjutors, at length became a permanent body, and enjoys the following prerogatives. 1. It convokes, in conjunction with the bannerets, the people on St. John's day, and the assembly which meets on *Secret Sunday*. 2. It prepares and draws up all the laws and ordinances; enjoys the sole power of proposing in the Great Council; and, by means of the bannerets, of putting a negative on any motion, by affirming it to be contrary to the constitution, without the necessity of proving that it is so. 3. It collects the votes in the election or confirmation of the advoyer, at the meeting of the people on St. John's day, and in the deliberations of the Great Council. 4. It fills up all the vacancies in that Council; 5. Suspends, deposes, confirms, and censures its members; 6. Confirms, or suspends and deposes its own members; makes regulations for the interior administration of its own body; appoints the manner of electing its own members, and filling up the vacancies in the Great Council; 7. Fixes on the time for those elections, and the sum of money which each member is permitted to receive from those who are elected. 8. It can exclude all candidates from being chosen members of the senate, of the fixty, from the office of bailifs, and other important charges; either by refusal to present, or by rejecting them as incapable. All these prerogatives, founded on authentic documents, or immemorial usage, were confirmed by the Council of two hundred, in 1606, 1623, and particularly in 1716.

ALL affairs of government, and all debates in the national assemblies, are carried on in the German language; and as the French tongue is spoken in the greatest part of the canton, and particularly by the gentry, there are many members of the Great Council, who do not understand the debates. Such was the general form of government when I first visited Friburgh in 1776; since that period it has undergone some very important alterations, the substance of which I shall communicate to you in the following letter.

LETTER

LETTER 53.

ORIGIN AND SUPPRESSION OF THE LATE TROUBLES IN THE CANTON OF FRIBURGH—CHANGES IN THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

THE exclusive right of sharing in the administration of affairs, enjoyed by a certain number of families, in the aristocratical cantons, hath, in conjunction with other concurrent circumstances, occasioned revolts in those of Zurich, Berne, and Lucerne, which have been quelled by the interposition of the other Helvetic powers, and prevented from again breaking out, by judicious regulations. Friburgh having exhibited a recent example of the same kind; I have endeavoured to trace the origin and progress of those intestine commotions, which have been followed by a considerable alteration in the form of government. Accordingly, I now lay before you the result of my inquiries, impartially drawn from repeated conversations with persons of both parties; from an attentive perusal of several publications written during the course of the troubles; and from some curious manuscripts, which it was my good fortune to obtain.

IN the latter end of April 1781, an insurrection suddenly broke out in the bailliage of Gruyeres, a district in the southern part of the canton; the inhabitants whereof are extremely jealous of their liberties, and zealously attached to all the customs transmitted from their ancestors. Irritated

by a few impolitic acts of government, by the petty vexations of the bailifs; by the fecularization of Val Sainte, a convent of Chartreux; by the abolition of feveral fafts and festivals; and excited by the artifices of Chenaux and Castellaz, two defigning leaders, they rofe in open rebellion.

PETER NICHOLAS CHENAUX, the chief of the fedition, was a native of la Tour de Treme, in the bailliage of Gruyeres. This man was greatly embarrassed in his circumftances, and highly exasperated againft government, having been arrefted and imprifoned in 1771, for his difobedient and turbulent conduct. He was in the thirty-eighth year of his age, of a good figure and expreffive countenance; and, being a man of rude but popular eloquence, and of an overbearing fpirit, had obtained a confiderable influence over the artlefs inhabitants. His abettor, John Nicholas Andrew Castellaz, was a burgher of Friburgh and advocate of Gruyeres: verfed in all the chicanery of the law, converfant in the hiftory and antient records of his country, and well acquainted with the privileges of the people, he was the firft to expofe the flighteft oppreffions of the bailif, and to remark wherever government feemed to infringe their immunities, or iffued edicts contrary to long-eftablifhed ufages. Having a loud voice, and vehement elocution, he was formed for popular affemblies. He was the perfon by whom Chenaux was principally directed in all difficult emergencies; he drew up the principal remonftrances which, exaggerating every defect in the conftitution, tended to render government odious, and to fpread difcontents among the people.

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THESE two leaders having, in conjunction with other accomplices, availed themselves of the public dissatisfaction, and engaged a considerable number of adherents; held, in the month of April 1781, regular meetings at Bulle. On the 24th, in particular, they insinuated before a large assembly, that government had formed a design of imposing additional taxes of a grievous nature, particularly on horned cattle and horses; and even of withholding the annual present of salt, which they shared with the burghers of Friburgh. They represented, that the secularization of Val Sainte, and the abolition of certain festivals, implied a settled determination to overturn the religion of their ancestors: that the governing party had many enemies; that the despotism of the secret chamber was held in universal abhorrence; that the nobles were discontented, on account of their exclusion from the principal charges of the commonwealth; that the burghers and inhabitants of the twenty-four parishes were jealous of the exorbitant rights possessed by the secret burghers, to whom was exclusively confined the entrance into the Great Council, and of course into the administration of affairs, and the lucrative offices of government. They added, that the time was now arrived, when they might venture, with impunity, to petition for a redress of grievances; a strong party in the capital was ready, on the first moment of their appearance, to join them; and multitudes would repair from all quarters to the standard of liberty.

HAVING, by these and similar insinuations, increased the number of their adherents, it was finally concluded, that, on the 3d of May, they should secretly repair to the capital, and, assembling;

affembling in the market-place, should force the arfenal; that, having provided themselves with arms, they should fecure the garrison, and constrain the Great Council to redrefs their grievances, and make thofe changes in the conftitution, which could alone fecure to the people a mild and juft adminiftration.

NOTWITHSTANDING the general ferment which prevailed among the people in the bailliage of Gruyeres, and the number of perfons concerned in this confpiracy; government received no notice of the plot, before the 29th or 30th of April. On the firft certain news of the intended infurrection, the council of war, who immediately affembled on the occafion, difpatched fome troops to arreft Chenaux; but he, having received information from one of his accomplices who happened to be at that time in the capital, efaped to la Tour de Treme; and, being joined by the moft desperate of his adherents, determined to take arms without delay. Having, by means of his emiffaries, excited the fpirit of rebellion among the people, who were informed, that Chenaux had narrowly efaped an arreft for his patriotic attempts to fecure their immunities; he ventured to repair to Gruyeres, where Caftellaz had already collected a confiderable party. This advocate, having affembled a large body during the night, expatiated, with much force and eloquence, on the feveral grievances, uſing various arguments in favour of an immediate revolt, fimilar to thofe which were urged on the 24th of April. He inflamed the populace to fuch a degree, that they flew to arms at five in the morning, and imprifoning the bailif, erected the ftandard of rebellion. The alarm
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being now given, Chenaux advanced to Posieux, which was fixed upon for the place of general rendezvous; from whence he addressed a letter to the magistrates of Friburgh, disclaiming all design of having recourse to violence, and requiring only, that the petitions and remonstrances of the people should be taken into consideration. On the next morning he conducted about sixty of his partizans to a height overlooking Friburgh, with an intention of surprizing the city; but finding the gates shut, the fortifications guarded, and not being joined, as he expected, by the inhabitants of the twenty-four parishes, he retired first to Posieux, and afterwards to Avry, where he expected a reinforcement, which Castellaz and his emissaries were collecting in various parts of the canton.

DURING these seditious proceedings, the magistrates of Friburgh were active in making preparations for the security of the town. The council of war sat during the whole night; a night of extreme terror and anxiety to many of the inhabitants. The account of the bailif's arrest, of Chenaux's escape, and that he was stationed at Posieux, within two leagues of the capital, with a corps of rebels whose number rumour exaggerated, was no sooner divulged, than a general panic prevailed. The garrison scarcely consisted of more than fifty soldiers, and those chiefly invalids; the fortifications were weak and extensive; not more than two hundred burghers could be mustered to defend the ramparts; and the insurgents were supposed to possess a strong party even within the walls. If in this moment of disorder, aided by the darkness of the night, Chenaux could have attacked the town with a
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sufficient force, he might have carried it by assault. But the first emotions of terror had no sooner subsided, than the besieged assumed a spirit and vigour adequate to the alarming situation of affairs. They all ran to arms; the nobles, burghers, and even strangers, crowded to the ramparts, and prepared for a vigorous defence. Their confidence was raised by the arrival of some militia from Morat, who entered the gates at nine in the morning, and by the expectation of more effectual succours from the canton of Berne,

ON the preceding evening a messenger had been dispatched to Berne, requesting immediate assistance. He arrived in that city soon after midnight: the advoyer d'Erlach, in the 85th year of his age, instantly summoned the Sovereign Council. "Gentlemen," exclaimed the venerable magistrate, "on other occasions you have a year to deliberate; you must now instantly act: Friburgh is besieged by an army of rebels; let those who approve sending troops to her relief, hold up their hands." The members unanimously assenting, the assembly broke up; and twelve hundred troops were commanded to march without a moment's delay. Before the close of the evening Major Rihimer entered Friburgh at the head of two hundred soldiers, who passed unmolested through flying parties of the insurgents; at midnight a hundred and fifty dragoons arrived, and on the next morning eight hundred infantry completed the reinforcement.

THE arrival of these troops inspired the magistrates of Friburgh with perfect confidence and security, and saved the
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the town from the most imminent danger. Nevertheless the emissaries of Chenaux and Castellaz, ranging about the country, sounded the church bells in the various towns and parishes, exclaiming that their religion and liberties were threatened with immediate annihilation. The rebel forces were continually augmenting; they began to be joined by many inhabitants in the environs of the town; and the least success would have increased their number. Chenaux had several emissaries within the city, and before mid-day appeared before Friburgh at the head of above two thousand men; eight hundred of whom were provided with muskets, the remainder with only clubs, or the first weapons which chance presented. Having occupied the heights, he found his followers wavering and irresolute, and struck with a general panic on receiving the news, that a large body of troops from Berne had reinforced the garrison. He posted his followers however in an advantageous situation, waiting with considerable anxiety till his forces should be increased, and an opportunity should present itself of commencing hostilities, or of obtaining a general amnesty for himself and his adherents.

IN this situation of affairs, Major Rihimer led a detachment of a hundred and eighty dragoons from one of the gates; while lieutenant Froideville, at the head of seventy foot and twenty dragoons, sallied from another. The Major, driving the besiegers from a height which commanded the town, continued his march with an intent of attacking them in front; and at the distance of about a cannon-shot, reconnoitred eight hundred of the enemy drawn up in order

of battle, but without artillery. The insurgents no sooner observed the cannon planted against them, and perceived that the commander was an officer of Berne, than they dispatched repeated messengers to assure him that they had no hostile intentions; that they were only collected to petition for a redress of grievances; and entreated him to spare the effusion of blood. Having received an answer, that he would undertake to intercede in their behalf, if they would instantly lay down their arms, and deliver up Chenaux; they agreed to the first point, but refused the second. The major continued to enforce his demand, and gained time, until lieutenant Froideville appeared unexpectedly in their rear. The two commanders repeating their promises, that their just remonstrances should not be neglected, the whole troop surrendered themselves prisoners. Four of the principal ringleaders being secured, the remainder, having delivered in their names and places of abode, were permitted to retire without molestation.

CHENAUX, either finding it impossible to excite his followers to sustain the attack, or being deficient in personal courage, was among the first who betook themselves to flight. Wandering from village to village, he was, about midnight, observed near Posieux by Henry Rossier, one of his principal accomplices. Rossier, willing to save his own life by betraying his leader, seized him by the collar, reproached him for having seduced the people into rebellion, and for his cowardice in forsaking them; and then, with the assistance of Chavaillat and Python, two other insurgents, took from him a double-barrelled pistol, and was conducting him to Friburgh.

Friburgh. Chenaux, however, suddenly disengaging himself, drew out a knife, and, wounding Roffier in several places, endeavoured to escape towards Posieux. But Chaillaud pursuing him, and Roffier snatching a musket from one of his followers, soon overtook him, and summoned him to surrender under pain of instant death. Chenaux, finding no hopes of escaping, and deriving courage from despair, attacked Roffier with such inconsiderate fury, that he received the assailant's bayonet in his breast, and expired on the spot. The death of the leader, the voluntary surrender of his principal associates, and the flight of Castellaz, put an end to this ill-concerted enterprise. Six hundred insurgents, the only remains of the rebels, were on the next morning observed hovering about the capital; but learning the fate of their leader, and the surrender of the other troops, and being attacked by a corps of grenadiers, they dispersed without resistance.

BUT although the insurrection was thus suppressed, and all parties had concurred in chastising rebellion; yet the spirit of discontent had spread itself with too great violence and rapidity among all ranks of men, not to convince the rulers of the state, that the seeds of the revolt lay deeper than appearances seemed to suggest. For it was obvious, that the petty vexations of bailiffs, the abolition of unnecessary fasts and festivals, and the seeming violation of a few trifling immunities, however exaggerated by the artifices of the most designing leaders, could never have been sufficiently powerful to excite the people of Gruyeres to the desperate extremity of taking arms against their lawful sovereigns; had not go-

vernment been extremely unpopular; if several grievances of an oppressive nature had not required to be redressed; several odious restrictions to be removed; and several defects in the constitution to be remedied. Influenced by these considerations, government, in a manifesto issued on the 11th of May, after granting a general amnesty to all the insurgents, excepting a few of the ringleaders, found it necessary to invite the subjects of all ranks and denominations to present remonstrances, to make representations, and to petition against grievances. About the same time the three cantons of Berne, Lucerne, and Soleure dispatched deputies to Friburgh, offering their mediation towards composing the dissensions of the republic.

IN consequence of this manifesto, many petitions and remonstrances were presented to the great council, either claiming the renewal of obsolete rights, the removal of certain restrictions, or the abolition of various taxes; demanding redress of grievances, and an amendment of the constitution; or complaining of an infringement of popular franchises. As it would be needless to mention all the complaints and plans of amendment which were dictated by the spirit of party and the frenzy of innovation, I shall confine myself to three principal points of dispute, which occasioned the most violent altercations; and which would never have been compromised, unless the three mediating cantons had powerfully and effectually interfered: 1. The disqualification of the nobility from the office of bannerets and *secrets*; 2. The exorbitant prerogatives and influence of the *secret chamber*; and 3. The exclusive privileges of the *secret burghers*.

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1. WITH respect to the first point in agitation, it may be remarked, that the exclusion of the noble families from the charge of bannerets and of *secrets* appeared sufficiently reasonable, as long as the government was democratical, and the bannerets were, according to the antient charters, chosen from the people; and of course when neither they, nor their coadjutors, the *secrets*, could be taken from the nobility. But when the government was changed from a democracy to an aristocracy, and the municipal administration no longer subsisted; and particularly when the troubles excited by the bannerets, in 1553, obliged the Council of two hundred to transfer from the people to themselves the right of appointing those magistrates; the disqualification of the nobility, which was founded on democratical jealousy, ought to have no longer subsisted. Their remonstrances were therefore just, and would have been still more reasonable, if the troubles of the republic had not rendered them dangerous.

2. As to the second point in question: the extensive power and extraordinary influence of the *secret chamber*, could not fail to create jealousies and discontents among all ranks of men. For, on considering the detail of their prerogatives, as laid down in the preceding letter, it must appear, that although the members of that committee enjoyed no positive authority in enacting or annulling laws; yet by being the depositaries of the constitution, and the ultimate framers of all decrees; by having the sole right of proposing, and a negative on all the resolutions of the great council, no motion could pass without their concurrence. It is also no less

less obvious, that the power of making regulations for the interior administration of their own affairs, mysteriously concealed from the knowledge of the Sovereign Council, might give rise to dangerous abuses; that the members of the chamber eventually enjoyed, by the power of excluding from all charges, that of nomination; that by appointing to the vacancies in their own body it was to be feared, what in effect happened, that an admission into the *secret chamber* would be chiefly confined to a few families; that, as they filled up all the elections in the Council of two hundred, these elections would depend entirely upon a few persons who possessed the greatest credit; and thus the government would gradually but necessarily tend to a narrower oligarchy.

3. THE third point in debate, namely, the exclusive privileges of the *secret burghers*, opened a much larger and more dangerous field of contention. The demand of the other burghers, that, according to the ancient form of government, the right of being elected into the Great Council, and consequently a share in the administration of affairs, instead of being exclusively confined to the *secret burghers*, should be also extended to them; seemed to militate against the fundamental laws of the republic, and to involve a total change in the very essence of the constitution.

THE remaining part of the year was employed in agitating these points of dispute; which gave rise to many political and historical discussions, and occasioned several curious researches into the origin of the *secret chamber*, and
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the rise of the distinction between the *secret* and other burghers. For the purpose of ascertaining these questions, the popular party demanded access to the archives; but met with delays and refusals on the part of government, which considered such an inquiry as of dangerous tendency, and calculated to introduce factious innovations in the state.

EXASPERATED by repeated refusals, the populace began to shew signs of discontent, and to assemble in great crowds at the place where Chenaux was put to death: they marched in solemn procession, bearing crosses and colours, and chaunting hymns and *requiems* in honour of this *martyr* (as they called him) to the religion and liberties of his country. These tumultuous meetings would probably have ended in another insurrection, if the bishop of Laufanne had not forbidden them, under pain of excommunication. Towards the conclusion of the year, the deputies from Berne, Lucerne, and Soleure, arrived at Friburgh, for the purpose of composing the differences subsisting in the capital. These deputies, in order to conciliate the burghers, who were no less violent in favour of the nobles than in extending their own immunities, prevailed upon administration to repeal the disabling clause. With respect, however, to the other subjects of controversy; as they conceived it dangerous to entrust the leaders of a heated populace with the records of government, which might be attended with projects of endless innovation; they proposed, that the Great Council should order a committee to draw up a declaration setting forth the privileges and franchises of the burghers; and that for the future

future this declaration should be considered as a fundamental code. But although these essential points were obtained, yet so many subjects of altercation still remained, that for some time all further plans towards finally composing the differences were fruitless. The deputies repaired to Morat, where they were employed, from the 25th of April 1782 to the 25th of July, in hearing appeals, revising and considering the arguments on both sides, and consulting on the best methods to conciliate the two parties.

So greatly however were the burghers dissatisfied with the chiefs of the aristocracy, that they formed a resolution to refuse taking the annual oath of allegiance to the Great Council; nor were they without great difficulty prevailed upon, by the three deputies in person (who repaired to Friburgh for that purpose) to perform the usual homage. Displeased, nevertheless, with the deputies themselves, and considering them as too partial to administration, they delivered a memorial; in which, after representing their grievances, they threatened to appeal to the general diet of the thirteen cantons assembled at Frauenfeld,

A MEASURE of so alarming a nature, and tending to produce a very material change in the principles of the Helvetic Union, was reprobated in the strongest manner by the members of that confederacy. For it was urged (and with great reason) that by introducing an innovation of such public notoriety, the disputes between the respective governments and their subjects would be liable to become more numerous and dangerous; and that in the end each canton
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would fall under the guardianship of the remainder. On the other hand, what rendered the present crisis of affairs still more alarming was, that the court of France, consulted by several leading members in administration, had offered her good offices towards composing the dissensions. And although the three cantons had, with consistent dignity, declared against the intervention of any foreign power, and that Friburgh on accepting such a mediation, should be excluded from the Helvetic confederacy; yet it was to be apprehended, that on an increase of the troubles, the French would find some pretext to interfere in the affairs of Friburgh, as they were actually engaged in those of Geneva: and “woe upon that republic,” said the assertors of Swiss independence, “in whose internal politics foreign powers interpose.”

INFLUENCED by these considerations, the three mediating cantons, anxious to bring matters to a speedy conclusion, prevailed upon the ruling party to consent to several alterations in the constitution. At length, after various delays, disputes, and conferences, the deputies published, on the 19th of June, a manifesto, declaring, that on an impartial and diligent review of the various memorials and manifestos on both sides, the assertions of the burghers were groundless, and their demands unconstitutional; that the present form of government had subsisted above two hundred years; and that the supreme authority resided in the members of the Great Council. To this declaration they added, that the three cantons would defend and protect the existing form of government, and would never permit an appeal relating

to the amendment or alteration of the constitution, to any other power than the supreme council of the republic, *that* tribunal being alone competent to such questions. At the same time they recommended to the government a repeal of the disabling clause, which excluded the nobility from the office of banneret or *secret*; to admit some new families into the *secret* burghership; to hear and redress any remaining grievances; and to correct any defects in the constitution.

THIS declaration, being accepted by government, was read, on the 28th of July, to the burghers assembled in their respective tribes; but several among them protesting formally against it, the three principal ringleaders of this opposition were banished, their protests disregarded, and tranquillity was restored to the republic. Soon after this final pacification, the Great Council passed several acts for the redress of grievances, removed some burdens and usages which had been the object of general complaint, and amended the constitution in the following points. 1. A perfect equality is established between the *secret* burghers; the antient nobles are no longer disqualified from holding the office of bannerets or *secrets*, but do not enjoy any precedence in consequence of their titles, which in all acts and deeds within the canton of Friburgh are omitted. In return, all the *secret* burghers are, without distinction of persons, esteemed equally noble. 2. Sixteen new families have been admitted into the *secret* burghership, which addition nearly completes the number of a hundred families; and it is further enacted, that on the extinction of any three families, an equal number of families shall

shall be elected without delay. 3. The vacancies in the fixty, instead of being indiscriminately supplied from the members of the two hundred at large, are now filled up according to seniority. 4. But the great and principal alteration in the form of government, respects the new constitution of the *secret chamber*; which is changed in the following important points.

1. THE members of that committee, instead of being nominated by a majority of voices in their own body, are now taken from the fixty, and chosen by *blind ballot*. The candidates are no longer under the necessity of being presented by a member of the *secret chamber*; but, on addressing themselves to their banneret, the latter is obliged to deliver in their names to the *secret chamber*. As each vacancy is supplied from the particular tribe in which it happens, this alteration must necessarily reduce the candidates to three or four: in order, also, to prevent cabal or corruption, if there shall be only one candidate, he is not necessarily elected; but it must be decided by lot, whether he shall be chosen or rejected; and if there should be a majority of ballots for the negative, he must wait till the subsequent year, before he can have another chance of being appointed. Each member, on his election, shall pay no more than £. 1. 10 s. to each banneret and *secret*; and the money shall be delivered to the secretary, and by him be equally distributed. 2. Neither father and son, nor two brothers, nor more than two persons bearing the same name, shall be admitted at the same time into the *secret chamber*. 3. The members still retain the right of filling up all the vacancies, in the Council of two hundred, with

the usual provisions, that the candidates shall be twenty years of age; and that the promotion shall take place every two years. It is further decreed, that, on oath, under pain of deprivation, no more, than 1200 crowns * shall be received for the nomination; and that the said sum, instead of being solely appropriated to the person who is to appoint, shall now be delivered to the secretary, to be by him equally distributed among the four bannerets, when either of them shall elect, or among the members of the *secret chamber*, belonging to the tribe in which there is a vacancy, when the turn devolves upon either of them †. It is moreover added, that if the person presented by a banneret, or a *secret*, shall be rejected by two-thirds of the chamber, another may be presented; but if the second is rejected, the right of presentation shall be transferred to the banneret, or *secret*, next in rank of the same tribe. It is also stipulated on oath, that all promises of exchanging presentations, or similar engagements, shall not be valid for the future; those only excepted, which are now absolutely subsisting, and which concern either a son of the contracting party, or a person whose name is specified. 4. The power of excluding persons from the principal charges of government, is still reserved to them; but they are exhorted to use it with great precaution and care. 5. The interposition of a negative, exercised by a single banneret, is no longer sufficient to reject a motion in the Great Council. The opposition, in order to render it valid, must now be founded on a precise law, and unanimously approved by the

* Of 25 each, the whole sum £. 171. 13 s. 10 d.

† Each banneret to nominate the first vacancy in his own tribe, and then each *secret* by rotation, according to seniority, in his particular tribe.

four bannerets; but if one shall dissent, it is then referred to the Council of two hundred, which shall decide, by a majority of two-thirds, whether the negative shall be confirmed or rejected. 6. The power of proposing, formerly vested only in the *secret chamber*, is now extended to the members of the Little Council and the fixty; and the mode of deliberating on such propositions and motions, is attended with forms more or less complicated, as the object is more or less important. In all instances the laws are prepared and finally drawn up by the *secret chamber*. 7. The *secrets* shall take an oath before the bannerets as delegates of the Great Council, to obey all the ordinances of that assembly, and to observe the present articles, without retrenching or adding to them. And it is further ordered, that no alterations shall be made in the present constitution of the *secret chamber*, unless approved by three-fourths of their own body, and by two-thirds of the Great Council.

L E T T E R 54.

CHEESE OF GRUYERES—HERMITAGE NEAR
FRIBURGH.

THE canton of Friburgh contains a small portion of arable land, but abounds in pastures; and, accordingly, its principal articles of exportation consist in horned cattle, cheese, butter, and hides.

THE cheese, well known under the name of Gruyeres, which is exported in such large quantities, is made in a chain of mountains about ten leagues in length and four in breadth, extending from the bailliage of Schwartzembourg to the districts of Vevay and Aigle in the canton of Berne. All the cheeses, though made in the same manner, are not of the same quality; a difference probably arising from the diversity of the soil, the same plants not growing at all heights; and the lower pastures, called *gites*, not being in such high estimation for their goodness as those in the most elevated situations.

THE whole district is divided into greater or lesser farms, which the proprietors let out in leases of three or six years, at the annual rate of 16*s.* to £. 1. 10*s.* during five months for each cow, according to the nature or elevation of the ground: the lower pastures, though not of the best quality, are the dearest, because being sooner free from the snow,
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and later covered with it, they afford food to the cattle for a longer time. Each farmer, having rented a mountain, hires from the different peasants in the canton from forty to sixty cows, from the 15th of May to the 18th of October: he pays at the rate of £. 1. 6s. to £. 1. 13s. 6d. per head; and each cow upon an average yields from twenty to twenty-four quarts of milk per day, and supplies two hundred pounds* of cheese during the five months. On the eighteenth of October the farmer restores the cows to the different proprietors. The cattle are then pastured in the meadows which have been twice mowed, until the 10th or 11th of November, when, on account of the snow, they are usually removed to the stables, and fed during winter on hay and after-grass.

As the mountains in the canton of Friburgh afford pasture for at least 15,000 cows, it may be estimated that they annually supply about 30,000 hundred weight of cheese fit for exportation; beside 2,000 or 3,000 after their return from the mountains, exclusive of a thinner sort, which is made in various parts of the canton. The cheeses fit for exportation weigh from forty to sixty pounds each, and are sold from £. 1. 17s. to £. 2 per hundred weight. Beside the cows which are pastured during summer in the mountains, the canton contains about 12,000 belonging to the several landholders, which supply their families with milk. The buildings necessary for making the cheeses consist of a *chalet* or cottage, which contains a room with a furnace for the purpose of boiling the milk, a cellar where the milk is preserved, and a

* Each pound contains seventeen ounces and a fraction.

stable for sixty or seventy cows; near it is a kind of dairy-room, kept in an equal degree of temperature, where the cheeses are every day turned and salted. The thickness of the vat, in which each cheese is pressed, is about four inches. The casks for exportation contain ten cheeses, excepting those destined for Italy, which hold only three, in order to be conveyed by mules across the Great St. Bernard. The cheeses well packed up bear the transport into the most distant countries; they ought to be kept in a damp place, and frequently washed with white wine, for the purpose of preserving them from insects. When the cows return from the mountains, a species of cream-cheese is made in autumn, and even in winter; it is much esteemed, and is dearer than that of Gruyeres.

THE greatest part of the salt used on these occasions is drawn from Franche Comté, a small quantity from Lorraine and Bavaria, but its quality is much inferior. The consumption of the whole canton, for all purposes, is at least 20,000 hundred weight, of which 15,000 is drawn from Franche Comté. A great number of mares, foals, and horned cattle, are annually raised in the canton: the oxen of three or four years old are sold in the canton of Berne, in the country of Neuchatel, and in Franche Comté. Upon an average it may be estimated that the canton of Friburgh supplies pasture for 37,000 cows and oxen.

IN our route to Berne, we made a small circuit to the village of Neuneck, in order to see an hermitage, that lies about a league from Friburgh; and which has been highly extolled

extolled by travellers on account of its singularity. It is formed in the solid rock; and the chief curiosity consists in its having been the work of two men: as such, it is an astonishing performance, but, in any other respect, is scarcely worth visiting. In the last century a hermit scooped out a hollow place in this rock, just sufficient to lie at his full length: but his successor desiring a more commodious mansion, hewed, in the heart of the mountain, a chapel, several apartments, and stair-cases. The length of the whole is above four hundred feet. One room is ninety feet long, and twenty broad; the steeple of the chapel, if it may be so called, is eighty feet high, and the chimney of the kitchen ninety. The hermit who perforated this habitation in the rock, was near thirty years engaged in the work. What a waste of time and industry! But such is the folly of sequestered superstition, that, for want of more rational occupations, it frequently has recourse to laborious trifles. The situation of this hermitage is beautiful: the rock in which it is cut, hangs over the river Sane, which meandering between two chains of hills covered with wood, fills all the valley beneath. The present hermit is a German; and with him lives an old foldier.

FROM this hermitage to Neuneck (at which place the canton of Berne commences) the country is rich, and finely wooded; on our right we had a distant but sublime view of the most rugged rocks, the snowy alps rising above them and closing the prospect. The sun was now declining: the various tints of the evening—the purple gleam upon the naked rocks—and the rays of the setting-sun upon the gla-

ciers, which seemed to glow almost into transparency—cast such a beautiful radiance over this magnificent scene, as even the luminous pencil of Apelles himself, who is said to have painted “*quæ pingi non possunt, fulgura & fulgetra**,” would in vain have attempted to imitate.

I am, &c.

* Vid. Plin. H. N. lib. 35. c. 10.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT from SAXO GRAMMATICUS,
referred to in p. 224.

NEC silentio implicandum, quod sequitur. Toko quidam aliquamdiu regis (i. e. Haraldi Blaatand) stipendia meritis officiis quibus commilitones superabat complures virtutum suarum hostes effecerat. Hic forte sermone inter convivas temulentius habito tam copioso se sagittandi usu callere jactitabat, ut pomum quantumcunque exiguum baculo e distantia superpositum, primâ spiculi directione feriret. Quæ vox primum obtrectantium auribus excepta regis etiam auditum attigit. Sed mox principis improbitas patris fiduciam ad filii periculum transtulit, dulcissimum vitæ ejus pignus baculi loco statui imperans. Cui nisi promissionis auctor primo sagittæ conatu pomum impositum excussisset, proprio capite inanis jactantiæ pœnas lueret. Urgebat imperium regis militem majora promissis edere, alienæ obtrectationis insidiis parum sobriæ vocis jactum carpentibus, &c.—

Exhibitum Toko adolescentem attentius monuit, ut æquis auribus capiteque inflexo quam patientissime strepitum jaculi venientis exciperet, ne levi corporis motu efficacissime artis experientiam frustraretur. Præterea demendæ formidinis consilium circumspiciens, vultum ejus, ne viso telo terretur, avertit. Tribus deinde sagittis pharetrâ expositis prima quam nervo inseruit proposito obstaculo incidit.—

Interrogatus autem a rege Toko cur plura pharetræ spicula detraxisset, cum fortunam arcus semel duntaxat experimento prosequi debuisset: “ Ut “ in te,” inquit, “ primi errorem reliquorum acumine vindicarem, ne mea “ forte innocentia pœnam tui impunitatem experiretur violentia.” Quo tam libero dicto et sibi fortitudinis titulum deberi docuit, et regis imperium pœna lignum ostendit.

Lib. x. p. 286. edit. Lipsic. 1771.

